

Thursday May 30 1996

Abu Dhabi D 8.50	Hong Kong HK 2.25	Oman OR 1.00
Albania L 2.20	Hungary H 1.00	Pakistan P 7.00
Andorra A 1.00	India IN 1.00	Poland Z 1.00
Austria A 2.20	Indonesia ID 1.00	Portugal P 2.20
Bahrain B 1.00	Iran IR 1.00	Qatar Q 1.00
Bangladesh BA 1.00	Italy I 1.00	Romania R 1.00
Belgium BE 1.00	Japan J 1.00	Russia RU 1.00
Bolivia BO 1.00	Kenya KE 1.00	Saudi Arabia SA 1.00
Brazil BR 1.00	Labrador LD 1.00	Senegal S 1.00
Canada CA 1.00	Latvia LV 1.00	Seychelles SE 1.00
Cayman Islands CY 1.00	Lithuania LT 1.00	Sierra Leone SL 1.00
Czech Republic CZ 1.00	Luxembourg LU 1.00	Singapore SG 1.00
Denmark DK 1.00	Malaysia MY 1.00	South Africa SA 1.00
Egypt EG 1.00	Maldives MV 1.00	Sri Lanka LK 1.00
Finland FI 1.00	Malta MT 1.00	Taiwan TW 1.00
France FR 1.00	Marshall Islands MK 1.00	Thailand TH 1.00
Germany GR 1.00	Mexico MX 1.00	Turkey TR 1.00
Greece GR 1.00	Moldova MD 1.00	USA USA 1.00
Guatemala GT 1.00	Monaco MC 1.00	UK UK 1.00
Haiti HT 1.00	Norway NO 1.00	Zimbabwe ZW 1.00

# The Guardian

INTERNATIONAL

NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR  
46,566

Printed in London, Manchester, Frankfurt and Roubaix

Who are upstairs and downstairs today?

## Maid in Britain

G2 with European weather



The Coen Brothers' return to form

## Madness in Minnesota

Screen G2 pages 8/9



OnLine

## The microbe that made history

G2 pages 10/13

# Europe raises the stakes

Major accused of hostage-taking as new demands infuriate sceptics

Stephen Bates in Brussels and Patrick Wintour

**T**HE confrontation between John Major and the European Commission escalated last night when plans to cut the British fishing fleet by 40 per cent were announced, while the commission president, Jacques Santer, denounced the UK's policy of non-co-operation as "deplorable hostage-taking".

In a diplomatically ill-timed move, the commission also demanded that the Ministry of Agriculture hand over to Brussels, by today, details of companies said to be marketing dangerous baby milk. Ministers have refused to divulge details of their research on grounds of commercial confidentiality.

The plans to cut the British

fleet by 40 per cent over the next six years, part of a Europe-wide move to preserve fish stocks, provoked the most furious Tory reaction and may endanger the Government's majority next Wednesday, when the Commons is due to vote on fishing vessel decommissioning.

The EU fishing commissioner, Emma Bonino, denied her announcement was designed to provoke the British, saying urgent steps were necessary if negotiations were to be completed by the end of the year to preserve stocks. She said her proposal would be examined by the Fisheries Council on June 10, and denied she was singling out the British.

However John Redwood, the leading Eurosceptic, described her announcement as "a hammer blow to an already weakened British fishing industry", adding that if



Europe's demands

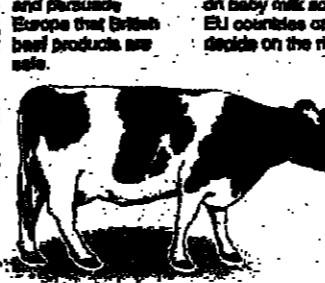
Britain does not get justice in negotiations, it must unilaterally "reimpose our own 200-mile fishing limit". John Ashworth, spokesman for Save Britain's Fish, claimed the British cut was nothing to do with saving stocks, but to make room for new European Union members.

The fishing row came as Mr

**Fish**  
Britain must cut its trawler fleet by a further 40 per cent by 2002 as part of the drive to conserve fish stocks.

A Commission spokesman said: "We don't want to divide countries into good people and bad people, but some members have made major efforts at restructuring and others have been more slack. Britain is amongst those countries which have consistently failed to meet the targets."

**Beef**  
Britain must implement anti-BSE measures which will restore public confidence in beef and possibly ensure that British beef products are safe.



Santer, once seen as John Major's ally, offered his fiercest rebuke to Britain's refusal to pass directives in protest at the EU ban on beef exports. He said: "The Commission deplores the effect that, in council, dossiers which are not at all linked to BSE have been taken hostage. This attitude is not appropriate in a community based on the rule of law."

Mr Santer's statement, couched in deliberately harsh language and agreed unanimously by all 20 Commissioners including Britain's representatives Sir Leon Brittan and Neil Kinnock, appeared to open the possibility of legal action if the Government con-

**Milk**



The Commission signals the fact that Council dossiers have been taken hostage. This attitude is not appropriate in a community based on the rule of law... and will certainly be counter-productive.

times to block EU decisions. The words — said to have been intensified in the translation from French — warned that the action jeopardised the functioning of European institutions and threatened to block progress on integration. It came a day after British ministers had attended their first European Council meet-



ings in Brussels and blocked a number of minor decisions. Although commission officials denied Mr Santer was threatening legal action against the Government, the virulent language was seen as an unprecedented criticism of a member state.

It was being said that the intervention — a week before

the commission is likely to be helping Britain by getting the ban on beef derivatives lifted — was designed to demonstrate its concern over the crisis but not to raise tensions. However, it came together with an announcement of an additional £100 million aid package for beef farmers across Europe, which placed Britain third in line for compensation behind France and Germany, neither of which have had serious BSE problems.

The reasoning given was that the calculations were based on the size of each nation's herds rather than the extent of the collapse of the industry, but it immediately provoked anger at Westminster.

Commission officials justified their call for immediate details of the powdered milk tests on the need for rapid information about health risks to be passed to other member states.

Leader comment, page 8  
Suzanne Moore, G2, page 7

**"I was about to ask him what he wanted. I saw the gun and he started shooting"**

Erlend Clouston hears two harrowing accounts of events in Dunblane primary school as massacre inquiry opens

**"T**HERE was a period of time when everything seemed to be very quiet. It seemed to last a long time." Although nobody at the inquiry except Eileen Harrild, the part-time PE teacher, had heard the shots in the gym at Dunblane Primary, they reverberated then in their heads.

Mary Blake, the supervisory assistant whose statement transferred the opening day of Lord Cullen's investigation into the Dunblane massacre, had had a similar, hallucinatory experience, during the nightmare of March 13.

Describing the moment when "the dark figure" was framed in the doorway of the gym, initially pumping a total of 105 bullets into primary one, she said: "The screaming seemed to be inside my head. She made the point twice in a statement that was read out on her behalf.

The first day of the inquiry into Britain's worst murder case had its sinister highlights: the reported discovery of 63 pairs of boys' swimming trunks in Thomas Hamilton's home; the revelation that he had cut the telephone line to the school before heading in with four guns and a total of 765 bullets, for example.

But the testimony of the two staff members brought the inquiry to the heart of the tragedy. One minute Mrs Harrild was laying out ropes and beams for the children; the next she was stumbling into the gym store, bullets in her chest and arms. One moment Mrs Blake was looking after her pupils; the next she was lying in a pool of her blood, trying to hide terrified youngsters under a gym mat.

Mrs Harrild, aged 43, testified first. She told the inquiry she had dropped her own two children at the school then walked to the gym to arrange the equipment for Owen Mayor's class. They had arrived shortly after 9.30am.

Mrs Mayor had said that she hoped to be relieved "in a couple of minutes" by the assistant head teacher. Instead, the shape that came through the door was altogether different.

"He had a woolly hat on and a gun in his left hand, extended," said Mrs Harrild. "He immediately began to shoot at us. I was within a few feet of him. I was about to ask him what he wanted. I looked and saw the gun and he started shooting at us."

Unflinching, Mrs Harrild described how she stumbled, bleeding, towards the storage alcove set into the side wall



Eileen Harrild, the PE teacher who helped to shelter four children in the gym after she was shot by Thomas Hamilton

of the gym. She did not see what Hamilton was doing behind her. "The shooting did not stop. It was continuous and very rapid."

After Mrs Harrild had struggled into the alcove, she told the inquiry, she was joined by four wounded children and Mary Blake.

In her statement, the supervisory assistant described how, after hearing a noise behind her, she turned round and saw "a dark figure" framed in the doorway. "He

started firing. I think Mrs Mayor was on the floor. The children were screaming. I am not sure if he had a gun in both hands. I was hit and I realised something terrible was happening. He was pointing the gun all around and shooting. The screaming seemed to be inside my head."

Both women told how Hamilton's fusillade continued, faltered briefly then picked up again at a slower rate as he proceeded up the hall.

The women concentrated

on stopping the children by trying to Hamilton the fact that he had six more targets just around the corner.

Miraculously, the injured pupils' intuition signalled the gravity of their situation. "The children were amazingly calm," Mrs Harrild reported. Then, equally miraculously, Hamilton transferred his empty Browning pistol to his left hand, pulled out his Smith and Wesson, put the muzzle in his mouth and fired. The bullet, a ballistics

expert revealed, went through his head, hit the ceiling and fell to the floor.

Mrs Harrild spoke for 32 minutes; Mrs Blake's statement lasted 10. Mrs Harrild said she had received letters from Hamilton but did not know or recognise him. Mrs Blake had no idea who he was. She may be haunted by the words a little boy kept muttering in their hiding place: "What a bad man."

Inquiry report, page 4

## Peres edges to slim victory

Derek Brown in Jerusalem and Jessica Berry in Tel Aviv

**I**SRAEL'S general election reached a sensational climax last night as an exit poll on Israeli television suggested that prime minister Shimon Peres would defeat his rightwing challenger, Benjamin Netanyahu, by the slenderest of margins.

The poll predicted that Mr Peres would win 50.7 per cent of the vote for prime minister, and that Mr Netanyahu would take 49.3 per cent.

The exit poll, though regarded as the most reliable early indicator available, is not an infallible guide to the final vote. Mr Peres may yet be overtaken.

If the poll is confirmed, one potentially ominous conclu-

sion can be drawn: that the Peres victory was achieved only through Israeli Arab support. The first figures suggest Mr Netanyahu won the Jewish vote by a clear margin of 5 per cent. That Mr Peres should take power in these circumstances will enrage the far right and the religious factions, which have polled heavily in the race for the Knesset (parliament).

The election, widely viewed as the most crucial in the country's 48-year history, has divided Israel as never before. At stake is the future of the Middle East peace process, and Israel's fragile relationship with the Palestinians.

"I think it is a historic decision," said Mr Peres as he turned to page 2, column 3

Cartoon, page 8

**XERYUS ROUGE**  
POUR HOMME

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Cross-Channel war hots up for summer as cost of a day trip to France on Le Shuttle falls to £49 a car

Poetry sketch

Olympian attempt at flights of fancy



Dan Glaister

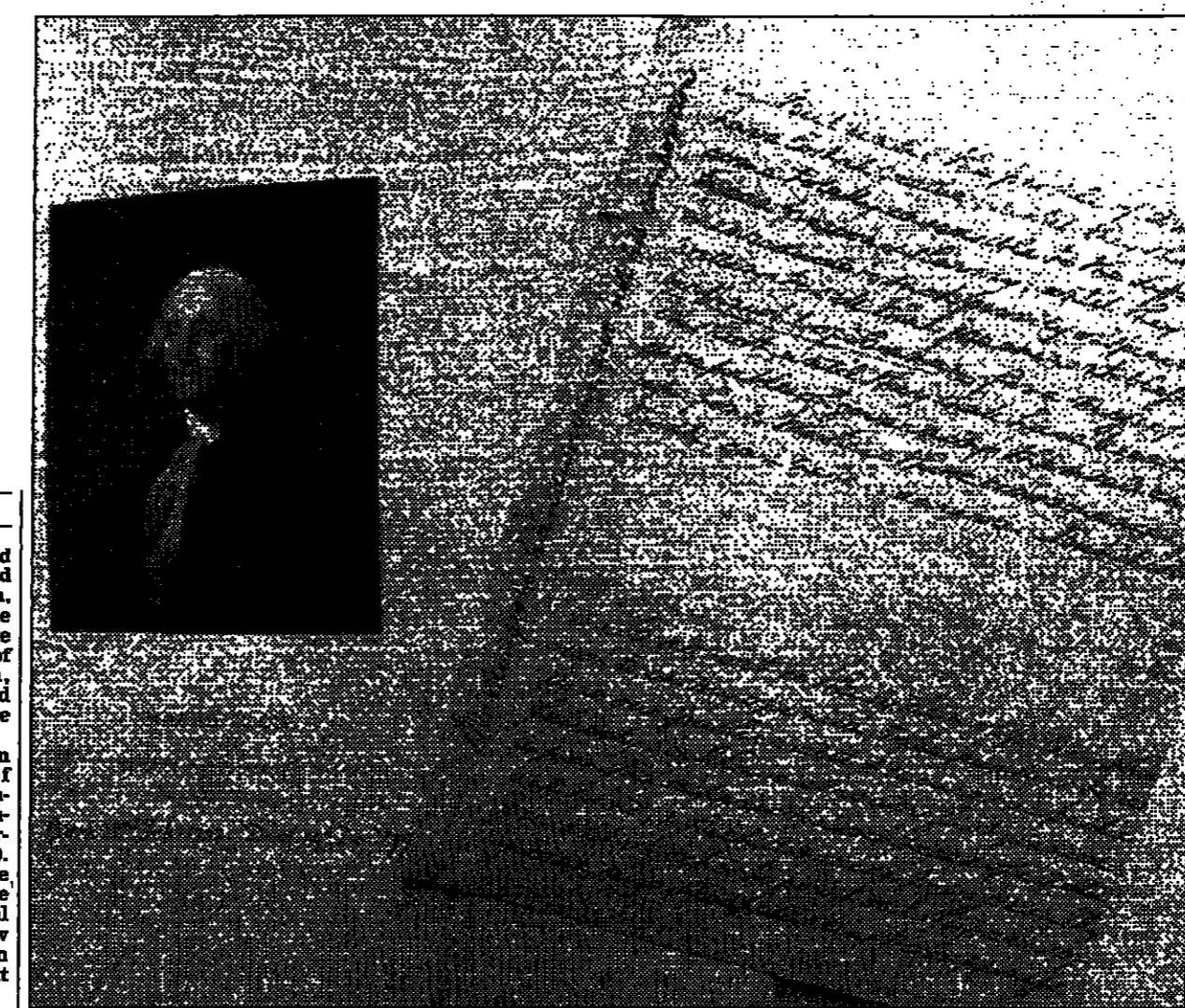
MICHAEL Horowitz plucked a rose out of a jar and sang the words of Sunflower. It was that kind of morning. The poet-impresario was presiding over the launch of his latest — and he promises last — word-changing project, a Poetry Olympics weekend (POW) culminating in a Hip Mass Superjam, an all-day at the Royal Albert Hall on July 7. The invitation promised a gathering of stars designed to convert even the most poetry-sceptic of observers. Blur's Damon Albarn, unfortunately, couldn't be there. Neither could Ray Davis. Patti Smith was somewhere else — but with us in spirit. The only predictable absentee was Private Eye's mythically reclusive poet, E.J. Thribb. But Mark Fisher, one of Labour's heritage team and a Superjam compere, was there. "I think Blur are good, but they're not the Kinks," he said. Yes, yes, Mark. But what about the poetry? "I'm a big fan of James Fenton, but I rather prefer the early Fenton to his Ruyard Kipling phase," he offered. Another vote lost. "It reminds me of my youth," he sighed. So was the man who might one day step into Virginia Bottomley's shoes there when Mike and Adrian Henri and Roger McGough threatened to levitate the Albert Hall? "Actually Cambridge put me off poetry," he said. Mr Horowitz made apologies for the absence of his friend Mr Hockney. "I didn't want the papers to be full of 'Fax from David Hockney,'" he said. Instead, wearing green loons — "They're originals, I bought them from a shop in Charting Cross Road in the sixties" — Mr Horowitz read a poem which was entitled Instead Of A Press Release:

"Let it wing and sing on high — the new music news of our new world symphony. A Hip Mass. But what's it all about, Michael? In 1965 a group of poets filled the Albert Hall. It was a great moment, it helped the counter culture, the Swingage Society to get rolling. "It's about poetry being part of communication and about the Olympic Games being focused on commercialism." Michael is in high speed mode. "It seemed worth trying to hand on the baton and show artists and poets can communicate on a grand scale. I've just turned 50 and I wanted to go out with a flourish." The Poetry Olympics is not an anti-sports gesture, however. "I tried to get Eric Cantona," said Horowitz, who once wrote a poem called the Wolverhampton Wanderer, "but he just wants to get away after Euro 96." Poet Laureate Ted Hughes had sent a message of support. "It is so long now since those instrumental poetry frolics passed away, this is probably a good time to start something fresh." John Hegley was much more down to earth, singing a song about an armadillo. This was in fact a ploy to establish his poetic credentials, as he managed deftly to rhyme the word armadillo with pillow and Brillo. Fay Weldon, another compere for the big day, was there because she often bumped into Mr Horowitz at Paddington station. "It's a sort of casualty and a meeting of minds," he noted. But what relevance, Fay, does poetry have to the youth of today and the great problems facing the planet as it hurtles towards the Millennium? "Poetry is mostly about people who aren't afraid to make fools of themselves," she revealed. "It's been one big party for the last 30 years." As Michael gathered his carrier bags together to make the trek to a photo opportunity in Soho Square, I asked what he would do with his free time? "I want to tend my garden." So would the man once described as "incorrigibly urban" be leaving London? "I mean my inner garden," he said.

Suffolk sofa yields secrets of US history

Sarah Boseley

A SHEET of paper, found in an album tucked under a Suffolk sofa, has been identified as the missing heart of George Washington's first draft of his inaugural speech, describing a radical and futuristic vision of the United States. The undelivered oration is already the stuff of legend — Washington eventually made do with a relatively few words at the ceremony on April 30, 1789. But the myth will only be enhanced by the bizarre discovery of the central passages, which are now expected to fetch between £100,000 and £150,000 at auction. The missing leaf came to light when Simon Roberts from Phillips, the auctioneers, was being shown round an old house in Aldeburgh, Suffolk, to value the books on the death of its female owner. "It was in the last room — a drawing room with some leather-bound books on a few shelves," he said. "The gardener pointed to this album sticking out from under the sofa. It was in a tatty, stained silk slip case, but the album itself was in very good condition. I opened it and got very excited, although I didn't realise the full implications." The album was full of old documents which had been collected for their curiosity value as autographs, said Felix Pryor, Phillips' book consultant, who authenticated the Washington leaf. It had been sitting in the album since about 1840 or so and I don't think anybody knew what it was," said Mr Pryor. After his death, Washington's speech had been passed to Jared Sparks who was editing the first president's papers. Sparks, who later became the first secular professor of history in the United States and president of Harvard, was convinced that Washington had not written it himself. When the papers were



The page of George Washington's visionary speech, found by accident during an auction valuation PHOTOGRAPHS: MARTIN ANGLES

ist known today for his support of Charles Darwin, visited the United States to lecture in 1841 and it is thought he — or more likely his autograph-collector wife Mary — was honoured by Sparks with an entire leaf of Washington's speech. It is thought to have been retrieved from under the Suffolk sofa. For collectors of Americana, says Mr Pryor, the find is like the discovery of the Holy Grail. The earlier leaves dealt with constitutional matters, but this leaf "seems to represent something of an oratorical climax. Both its style and vision entitle it to consideration as the undelivered Gettysburg Address of the American Revolution." In it, Washington rejects

First night

Blues played in the right hue

Ed Vulliamy

Buddy Guy (with Eric Clapton)

ERIC CLAPTON once introduced Buddy Guy as "the best guitarist in the world". Slowhand is a judge of these things, and was also a man to hear closely in mind as Buddy's London evening got under way, because the night had a sting in its tail. After four decades playing, Buddy is among the last of the great Chicago bluesmasters. His guitar bites sharp, carving its way across — often against — the beat. What marks Chicago's sound from that of B.B. King's LA/Deep South blues is a raw quality, usually devoid of brass. But now Buddy introduced his "Big Band" complete with rhythm section. He came on in a headband, with wrinkles and a devilish grin. As with most veteran black bluesmen in America, Buddy's apprentices are all in their late 20s and look like they brush their teeth every day. Buddy, twice their age, was the only one with a brandy bottle on the amp, sipping the usual, delightful filth: "One leg in the East/One leg in the West/I'm driving down the middle/tryin' to do my best." Have You Ever Been Mistreated? and Feels Like Rain both began with a lightness of sensual touch, dramatically punctuated by sharp, steeley bursts. Buddy's guitar can be angry, funny, sad or sexy. The set had a theme, mimicking his favourites like John

Lee Hooker. "But we'll have to leave out one of them," said Buddy, "because he's here!" And he plucked the opening phrase from Cream's Strange Brew. The applause was muted, as the most familiar white disciple of the blues shuffled on stage — unshaven, bespectacled and in jeans — it was from amazement rather than ingratitude. Eric Clapton had been all over the morning papers; his house burned to cinders, his famous guitar collection incinerated. Strange Brew was an adventure on which the duo embarked with a dialogue of crisp, potent volleys, answering one another. The number ebbed and flowed through a range of moods — moments of quiet control building into melodramatic waterfalls of notes, or harsh peals. Buddy introduced his second guitarist, Scott Holt to lead off on Red House. Soon the backstage elders took over however, and Red House became another long excursion, both laughing and crying, for such are the blues when they are at their right hue. Clapton sounded more engaged and stilled in here than at his Albert Hall blue-sessions. The duo was greater than the sum of its parts. As the enthralled Buddy said: "This man makes everybody play." The two cheshire-cat grins confirmed what the octogenarian, Mississippi Mudslide Slim, said to me once, one over the other in Chicago: "The best is Buddy Guy. But there's only two white boys can do it: Stevie Ray Vaughan, and your English boy, I forgot his name right now..."

HIV doctors denounce cut

Sarah Boseley

THE Aids epidemic, which Britain has been more successful in containing than most countries, could slip out of medical control if government funding cuts go ahead, specialists backed by the British Medical Association warned yesterday. The Department of Health has reduced Aids treatment and care funding this year by 7.7 per cent, or £10 million, while it is expected that the number of patients needing treatment will increase by about 6 per cent, said Tony Pinching, a clinical immunologist. Prof Pinching said there was a risk that cutbacks, particularly in preventive work, would lead to more people being infected. "There are going on for 20 million cases of HIV worldwide and we are not insulated from that," he said.

Drug scam hits US Navy

Jonathan Freedland in Washington

THE scandal-plagued United States Navy suffered further embarrassment yesterday as 21 sailors were arrested for running a drug-smuggling operation. Navy investigators said the sailors, based in Naples, were recruited by Nigerian dealers and carried out another heroin and cocaine run from Turkey and elsewhere. Their uniforms provided perfect cover, enabling them to cross borders with minimal scrutiny, naval officials said. "The suspects were found with more than 10lbs of drugs

and several thousand dollars after raids by agents of the Naval Criminal Investigative Service. The accused are mainly junior sailors, but one is a lieutenant commander. The sailors are reportedly also suspected of selling US birth certificates and passports to their Nigerian paymasters. "These arrests target a few individuals whose greed has allegedly gotten in the way of their duty," said John Ryan, the US Fleet Air Mediterranean Commander. The arrests are the latest blow to morale in the Navy, once venerated as the most prestigious of the US armed services. The graver was the suicide this month of Admiral Jeremy "Mike" Boorda, the navy's highest-ranking officer, who shot himself minutes before he was due to meet two reporters who questioned his right to wear Vietnam combat medals. The prestigious Naval Academy in Maryland has seen several scandals, including the discovery of a drug ring involving 24 sailors. The navy's darkest hour remains the Tailhook affair of 1991, when a party of navy aviators celebrated victory in the Gulf war by forming a gauntlet along a hotel corridor where they groped and assaulted female colleagues. Officers were later punished for looking on and doing nothing.

Peres 'set for slim victory'

continued from page 1 cast his vote yesterday morning. "One road leads to peace, the other to Jewish settlements, and these are in full control of the nation chooses peace." Mr Netanyahu shrugged off the very idea of defeat. "I think my opponent is probably considering it I haven't," he told reporters as he cast his vote. He insisted the main issue was not peace, but Israel's security. "I think we have to choose between a future bright with hope and peace and security, and the present that offers little hope, little peace and little security," he said. As voters went to the polls in record numbers, there was mounting evidence that fears on security had weighed heavily. For the first time, Israelis had two votes — one for the prime minister's party, and another for one of the 20 parties contesting the 120-seat Knesset. The victor in the prime ministerial poll, even if he has no majority in the Knesset, cannot be dislodged without provoking yet another general election. In mid-February, when the elections were called, Mr Peres was ahead in the opinion polls by a seemingly unsailable 20 per cent. That was when the nation was still in deep collective shock over the November assassination of prime minister Yitzhak Rabin. But Mr Peres saw his advantage blown to pieces by Islamist suicide bombings which killed 63 people and horribly undermined the prime minister's promises of peace. Last month's Israeli bombardment of southern Lebanon alienated Arab voters from Mr Peres. Mr Netanyahu has said that if elected he would drastically change Israel's approach to the peace process. He has threatened to order Israeli troops back into the self-rule enclaves of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip and pledged to maintain Israel's occupation of the Golan Heights, captured from Syria in 1967.

Across the water

Table with ferry and travel options from Dover to Calais. Columns include service name (Le Shuttle, Stena Sealink, P&O, Hoverport), car/seat prices, and contact numbers.

Simon Roberts... got very excited on opening album

An imposed government. "But until the people of America shall have lost all virtue — until they shall have become totally insensible to the difference between freedom and slavery; until they shall have been reduced to such poverty of spirit as to be willing to sell that pre-eminent blessing, the birthright of Freeman, for a mess of pottage; in short, until they shall have been found incapable of governing themselves and ripe for a Master — those consequences, I think, can never arrive." He then envisages the future greatness of America and, Mr Pryor suggests, gives "an uncanny foretaste" of the information superhighway. "The preliminary observation that a free government ought to be built on the information and virtue of the people will here find its proper place — Happily our Citizens are remarkably instructed by education, docile to duty and ingenious for making improvements — I believe that more knowledge is, at this moment, diffused among them, than among almost..." (manuscript breaks off). And the rest, as they say, is history.

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Leaving a nasty taste... Gascoigne has courted controversy on and off the pitch throughout his footballing career

# Gazza blamed for FA own goal

### MPs want England star dropped if he caused £5,000 plane damage

John Duncan  
Sports Correspondent

THE Football Association was at the centre of a political row last night as MPs rounded on it for failing to drop Paul Gascoigne from England's Euro 96 squad after an incident on a plane in which £5,000 of damage was caused.

The deadline for naming the squad passed at midnight, with the FA saying it was "very unlikely" that anyone would be withdrawn from the 22-man list announced on Tuesday.

John Carlisle, vice-chairman of the Conservative Party's back-bench sports committee, said: "This has happened at a time when we are worried about what is going to happen when the competition gets under way. It sets a terrible example. The culprits should be identified, publicly exposed and thrown out of the squad at once. And if that includes Paul Gascoigne, then so be it."

Labour MP Andrew Mackinlay denounced the decision by England manager Terry Venables, who is in Switzerland, not to confront the players until Monday as "wholly unacceptable".

"If he is abroad, he ought to get back pretty damn quick and deal with it," said the MP for Thurrock. "Whoever is guilty of these acts of vandalism should be identified at once and at the very least excluded from the squad."

David Miall, Chief Constable of Northumbria, where a tough anti-hooligan drive in recent weeks has resulted in 63

arrests, said: "It goes without saying that all professional sportsmen have a responsibility to behave properly."

Mr Gascoigne was also allegedly involved in an altercation with a photographer at Heathrow, where the Cathay Pacific plane bringing the England squad from Hong Kong landed.

Russell Clisby said: "I started to photograph him and he started shouting abuse and swearing. He was very drunk and acting like a real kid. Bryan Robson grabbed his arm and dragged him away, telling him to calm down."

Gascoigne's agent, Mel Stein, refused to reveal the player's version of events, in which two personal television monitors and a foldaway table were damaged.

"I've spoken to Paul and the FA," said Mr Stein. "The FA have already instituted their own internal inquiry, and Paul is very happy about this. He's going to co-operate fully."

The FA is also attempting to play the incident down. "We have to say that nobody on that flight — certainly members of the FA staff — are aware of any serious incident," said FA spokesman Steve Double. "We were not informed by the airline staff of any problem. I am very surprised because I would have walked past the seats where that damage is alleged to have taken place and I saw nothing untoward there."

"While we accept that there was some damage, we are not pointing the finger at any one player at the moment. There is no indication it was an England player."

### Alan Travis on the penalty facing mercurial midfielder if found guilty

PAUL Gascoigne would be likely to face a fine of around £2,500 and an order to pay £5,000 compensation to Cathay Pacific if he were found guilty by a court of causing criminal damage.

Although he would not be sent to prison, magistrates would have the power to impose reporting restrictions to prevent him attending the next game, as they would with any football hooligan.

The court could, for example, require Gascoigne to report to Heathrow police at 2.30 on June 8 when England kick off their opening Euro 96 game against Switzerland.

Magistrates have been set guidelines which give a fine of £270 as the "going rate" for the average criminal damage offence. But they could be expected to impose a heavier

fine on an England footballer who was found guilty, particularly one who committed such an offence two days after newspaper headlines in which the Government announced a crackdown on "job" culture. The court has the discretion to vary the fine according to the income of the defendant.

An international footballer in these circumstances would also face a heftier fine if he were shown to have been acting as a ringleader rather than on his own. He would get less than the maximum available penalty of £5,000 or six months in prison as his solicitor would argue that he had acted impulsively and may have also been provoked. A timely guilty plea might secure a discount of one third on his sentence.



Calling the tune... a pointed Loyalist tribute after scoring for Glasgow Rangers



Crying shame... after being dumped out of England's last World Cup in 1990



Belly laugh... Gascoigne keeps some jokes above the belt for his fans

### Gazza's gaffes

July 1991: Arrested over street brawl after all-day drinking binge in which he headbutted Gian Fulgenzi, an Italian waiter, and John Beesh after Gascoigne's sister was knocked unconscious and the two men went to help her. Conditionally discharged for the assault on Mr Beach, but later pays him £7,500 out of court.

October 1991: Fractures right kneecap in scuffle at Newcastle nightclub.

October 1992: Forced to apologise to the people of Norway after telling them to "fuck off" on Norwegian television.

January 1993: Fined £9,000 after beheading into an Italian TV microphone during a self-imposed media silence.

August 1993: Book by former personal assistant Jane Notage reveals incidents — including urinating on teammates and going on brandy binges — and alleges he suffered from bulimia.

January 1994: Allegedly punches Italian photographer Lino Nanni and is summoned to appear in Italian court in October 1996 over the incident.

July 1994: Rings up the News of the World to tell them he beat his girlfriend Sheryl Kyle for two years.

December 1994: Checks into stress clinic in Italy after reports of drinking and eating binges.

December 1994: Interviewed by police after two of his minders were alleged to have intimidated a man who was taking a picture of friends in a London bar as Gascoigne was in background.

August 1995: On debut for Rangers, mimics playing an Orangeman's flute after scoring and causes the BBC to be banned from Ibrox stadium for broadcasting the incident.

December 1995: One-match ban over headbutting incidents during a match against Aberdeen.

January 1996: Questioned by Gateshead police over incident in Indian restaurant in which it was claimed he hurled racial abuse at waiters.

February 1996: Goes on drinking binge in London with Rangers team-mates as girlfriend Sheryl goes into labour with their child.

February 1996: Interviewed by police over allegations by a former girlfriend of a sex attack. No charges brought.

# Bonuses for drought firm directors

Martyn Hales and Nicholas Bannister

A DECISION to pay bonuses to water company directors said to have suffered stress during their handling of last year's drought in Yorkshire has enraged shareholders.

Eleven days ago a public inquiry set up and funded by Yorkshire Water blamed company executives for failing to anticipate demand and prepare emergency plans. It also criticised the company for losing 37 per cent of the water it produced through leakage.

The much-criticised company has decided to compensate directors of its regulated water subsidiary, Yorkshire Water Services, for the "stress" involved in dealing with last year's shortages — a problem which the company had largely brought upon itself.

Peter Bowler, campaigns officer for the lobby group WaterWatch, said yesterday: "It is true that directors are to be rewarded, it is an insult to customers. It was their failure to invest in supplies and fix leaks which caused the crisis."

At the company's annual general meeting in Harrogate on July 25, directors will face demands for details of the bonuses paid to senior staff and will be asked whether these will be included in this year's annual report.

WaterWatch chairwoman Penny Ward said: "Quite frankly, directors should be surcharged rather than given bonuses. They are being rewarded for dealing with a crisis of their own making. That cannot be right and shareholders will want to know why."

Diana Scott, a former chairwoman of Yorkshire Water's customer services committee, suggested that customers who invested in bottled water and containers because of fears of reduced supplies might be tempted to seek compensation, as businesses and local authorities had done.

Alice Mahon, Labour MP for Halifax, called the management bonus payments "a scandal". "I can't believe it. You would have had to live in Yorkshire, and particularly West Yorkshire, to know the anxiety and stress caused last summer by their antics and chaos."

She said the directors and senior managers had themselves caused stress to customers by threatening rota cuts stopping supplies for up to 24 hours. "If there's money available, it should go on reducing bills, or into making sure we get a supply that is always going to be there."

David Nicholson, Conservative MP for Taunton and treasurer of the all-party group on water, said he did not approve of the payments. "It's a highly contentious matter," he said.

When water ran short in West Yorkshire last summer the company wanted to limit demand by imposing restrictions on customers, a move which would have had little impact on profits.

However, it was later forced to bring in water from neighbouring Kielder reservoir through a 24-hour tankering operation costing £47 million. Since then it has announced plans to spend £70 million on emergency measures to prevent a repeat of last year's fiasco. Chairman Sir Gordon James and managing director Trevor Newton are stepping down.

In December, the company said it planned to reward staff for extra work during the drought, but refused to confirm that executives would get bonuses.

A spokesman said yesterday that payments to directors of Yorkshire Water and Yorkshire Water Services would be shown in the annual report and accounts to be published in the summer. She refused to say how many executives would get bonuses or how much they would get.

£1.5bn bid, page 11

# Animal-human sperm 'possible'

### Tim Radford on an experiment where implanted mice produced rat sperm

SCIENTISTS in the US have developed a technique that, in theory, could be used to make another animal produce human sperm.

They have found a way to make male mice produce rat sperm by transplanting sperm precursor cells of the larger mammal into the testes of its smaller relative.

Ralph Brinster, of the University of Pennsylvania, reports today in the science journal, Nature, that the technique he and colleagues from the University of Texas pioneered could "prove useful in biology, medicine and agriculture".

Although rat testis cells were transplanted in 10 mice, and the scientists found that rat sperm production took place in 19 out of 20 mouse testes.

They also examined the long tube that connects the testis to the penis and found that those which had harboured the transplants for more than 110 days contained sperm with a shape that belonged to rats rather than mice.

Rats and mice are thought to have diverged from a common ancestor 11 million years ago. The success of the experiment suggests that at least part of the sperm process is common to all mammals.

But the remarkable thing is that the mice were able to nurture sperm that took 50 per cent longer to develop than they would naturally produce, and with a different shape.

human to pig, and only doing the experiment will tell you. The team has now established an "immortal" line of spermatogenic cells which can be taken out of the freezer, revived and perhaps genetically altered. This is more than simply freezing sperm.

"When you freeze a stem cell and you can show it will grow in another animal, you have saved that individual, you have immortalised that individual," he said. "It's a totally new concept in biology."

"It's very unlikely I think that one could not freeze the sperm stem cells of all mammalian species. I would be surprised if the human stem cell could not be frozen and perhaps kept for many years, perhaps indefinitely."

The research poses a new problem for those bodies set up to consider the ethics of genetic research. The 1990 Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act sets certain constraints on embryology research in Britain. But it does not expressly deal with sperm machinery transplants until now, no one had expected these to be possible.

But the transplant from one species to another is only one of a series of recent dramatic developments in genetic engineering. Scientists in Britain and the US are racing to perfect a pig with a human-compatible heart, and a sheep in Edinburgh has been producing a human protein for years.

Other experimental transfers include:  An "antifreeze" gene from an Arctic flounder into a tomato to prevent frost damage;  A banana with a gene which makes a vaccine against the blood virus, hepatitis B;  Mustard plants with a bacteria gene which makes biodegradable plastic;  Tobacco with a gene for species barriers, which species it's difficult to say. In terms of going from human to mouse it may be much more difficult than going from

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# 4 BRITAIN

## Silence reigns in chamber as roll of death is read at measured pace

Erland Clouston on the mix of restraint and bloody detail presented at hearing

THE NAMES of the sixteen children and their teacher were read out to a crowded but silent chamber in Stirling's Albert Hall.

In a firm voice, the Lord Advocate, Lord Mackay of Drumadoon, went at a measured pace through the list of victims of the gunman, Thomas Hamilton, whose suicide brought the deaths to 18. He then listed the 17 others injured in the gym of Dunblane primary school.

Presiding over the inquiry was a judge, Lord Callen. But the most important people were in the balcony above the chamber. Given the ordeal before them for possibly the next three months, it was surprising that so many relatives and friends of the victims turned up. But for the past 11 weeks they have had to tread a narrow path between shunning publicity

and the need to discover the truth about March 13.

Lord Mackay told the inquiry that information about all the victims, including biographical details and post-mortem reports, were in three red folders. But the details inside would not be read out to respect the privacy of the families concerned. "As far as is humanly possible, the evidence will be given in a manner which protects the identity of the individual victims," said the Lord Advocate. If it became possible to identify any victim, he hoped the media would not publish their name.

Some of the detail of the death of the gunman, Thomas Hamilton, would, however, be read out and discussed, said Lord Mackay.

The chamber has been recastled so no footfalls disturb the atmosphere of inquiry, exemplified by Lord Callen's courteous voice.

"Shall we begin again?" he asked at the start of the afternoon session.

Oddly, the public had mainly stayed away. There were barely two dozen interested parties in the rows of seats shared with lesser legal representatives.

The Scottish Office had gone out of its way to make the proceedings available to those who were curious. Thirteen TV monitors exhibited everyone to pass aerial photographs of the school. On an architect's drawings was shown the scene where the injured staff, Mary Blake and Eileen Harriid, covered, and where an unidentified boy had kept muttering "What a bad man."

More than 100 journalists are registered for the inquiry, and the Lord Advocate's questioning was

switched the pistol from his right hand to his left and drew the Smith & Wesson revolver with his right hand. He then placed the muzzle of this gun in his mouth pointing upwards and pulled the trigger.

The fired bullet has exited through the top of his head and... a fountain of blood followed the bullet and spread on to the floor behind him.

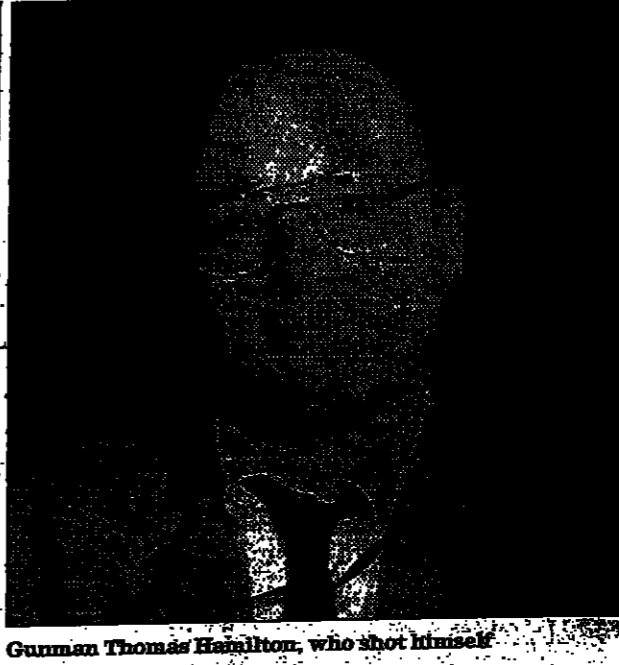
The force of the shot has thrown him in a backwards direction with the result he has landed on his back. The recoil of the fired gun resulted in it being torn from his grasp and landing on the floor of the gym. He has managed to retain a grip of the pistol in his left hand.

Mr Chisholm said 25 20-round magazines were also found, each marked with a yellow sticker to indicate the front end. "This was not standard practice - it was a ploy that informed the user which was front and back for speed of magazine exchange," he said in his report.

Four of the magazines were empty, three part-full, and the other 18 were full.

Mr Chisholm said Hamilton appeared to have fired two bullets before entering the gym, one into the assembly hall stage he passed on his way, and one into a toilet wall. He said there was no explanation for the shots.

From the gym door he fired 29 rounds to all parts of the



Gunman Thomas Hamilton, who shot himself

# Minutes of mayhem that took 17 lives

Police chief/ School staff did 'absolutely unbelievable job' as harrowing task of identifying massacre victims went on

THE most shocking moment of yesterday's hearing came when the inquiry was shown a graphic colour photograph of the body of Thomas Hamilton, dressed in black, sprawled on his back on the floor of the school gym next to a pool of blood.

The picture, seen on television monitors around the inquiry chamber, showed the gun which Hamilton had shot himself as well as the Browning pistol he used for most of his shooting spree. Two other guns lay on the floor a short distance away.

The picture, requested by a lawyer who wanted the position of the guns made clear, was shown during evidence from Det Chief Supt John Ogg, chief investigating officer of the incident. He said he first heard about it at about 9.45am on March 13.

He said a man firing Hamilton's description was first seen by a witness, Audrey McMillan, at about 9.28am driving a white van slowly near the school. The van had parked beside a telegraph pole inside the school grounds. Filers recovered from the scene were found by forensic scientists to have cut the telephone wire, severing phone links to local houses but not the school.

Mr Ogg said Mrs McMillan had seen Hamilton get out and take a silver material from the van which he unfolded on the ground. It looked like a tool wrap with objects in it but she could not see what these were.

The first shot was believed to have been fired at 9.37am, he said. Eileen Harriid was the first person to be shot, followed by Gwen Mayor and Mary Blake.

He said one child who was walking up the side of the gym after leaving a class saw Hamilton in the first position, when he entered the gym, and also saw him in the middle of the gym firing shots. "Hamilton noticed him and discharged a shot in his direction, and he was injured by breaking glass," said Mr Ogg.

After firing in the middle of the gym, Hamilton walked in a semi-circle, firing more shots, then moved up nearer the top of the gym and fired a shot through the window at the east side of the gym.

He then opened the fire escape door and fired four shots towards the school library.

Four shots were fired from within the gym, then he stepped out of a fire escape door and fired another four shots before firing nine shots at the primary seven hut. A teacher there, Mrs Gordon, told her class to get down, "which is very fortunate as one of the bullet holes was through the back of a chair."

Hamilton also fired a shot towards the main building where a teacher, Mrs Tweedie, was walking along a corridor. She was struck a glancing blow to the head. When Hamilton went back into the gym he fired five or six more shots, the officer said.

Det Chief Supt Ogg said student teacher David Scott had witnessed some of the shooting, and Hamilton's final shot. Mr Scott had described seeing Hamilton in a firing position, firing with only a second between shots.

The student teacher had described how Hamilton took a gun close to his face. "I could not see if he put the gun to his mouth or just to his face," the student teacher had told police. "I then heard a shot. The man's head slumped backwards with a jolt, his knees folded, he fell backwards to the floor landing near the wall and on his back," Mr Scott had said.

Mr Ogg said doctors arrived from nearby Doune and the village of Callendar. A medical team from Stirling Royal Infirmary arrived at 10.15am. They were followed by others from the same hospital and a team from Falkirk.

Police threw a cordon around the school, arranged to remove the injured to hospital, began identifying the dead and set up an inquiry. The last of the injured was moved from the gym by 11am. All but one of the injured survived, he added.

He explained the problems of identifying the injured and dead. Two pupils were absent from the class, and teachers and staff helped with the identifications, which Mr Ogg agreed was an incredibly harrowing task.

He said the head teacher and his staff did an "absolutely unbelievable job" because the circumstances were extremely distressing.

At one stage police were relying for identity on clothing labels. But one child was wearing a pair of shorts with a name tag, which did not relate to anybody in the gym. Another young victim did not have a school record card although the school roll indicated she was in attendance.

The telephone line to the school was jammed by anxious parents and the media. Police reverted to mobile phones which also became blocked because the media arrived very quickly.

Mr Ogg said police had carried out major disaster exercises but these usually involved train crashes and not a mass shooting. Every major crime in rural areas caused communication problems.

He said it was not until about 1.30pm that police were sure of the identification of all the victims and could begin to inform parents.



Gwen Mayor and her first-year primary class, all aged five or six. Mrs Mayor and 16 of the children were killed by Thomas Hamilton at Dunblane

Doctors/ How accident plan was put into operation

IT TOOK more than 12 hours, from 4pm on the day of the tragedy until 4.30am the following morning, to complete post-mortem on Thomas Hamilton and his 17 victims.

Two teams of pathologists worked at Stirling Royal Infirmary after discussions with the procurator-fiscal, the inquiry was told.

It was decided that the post-mortem examinations of the 16 children and the teacher, Gwen Mayor, should be as unobtrusive as possible. Their bodies were not to be dissected in a way that would normally be done in the case of a violent death.

But a full autopsy was carried out on Hamilton.

One of the two pathologists, Anthony Busuttill, regius professor at Edinburgh university, said that the victims had suffered from one to seven gunshot wounds. There was a considerable variety of wounds and it was not possible to tell from where the shots had been fired.

The post-mortem on Hamilton, done the day after the shooting, showed that he had a gunshot wound which began in his mouth and emerged at the back of his head, a few inches above his left ear.

The exit wound, measuring 40mm by 25mm, was surrounded by brain and bone fragments. Hamilton had died instantaneously.

Tests showed no traces of drugs or alcohol. Hamilton had been healthy, well-fed and muscular, with no sign of disease.

A consultant paediatrician, Jack Beattie, of Stirling Royal Infirmary, said the hospital's accident and emergency department received the first information of the shootings at 9.48am. A major incident was declared.

He reached the school at 10.15am and was met by police and ambulance personnel in the gym, where there were a "large number" of dead and injured children and one dead adult, Mrs Mayor.

Some casualties had a single gunshot wound but others had more than one. Four of the children had "potentially fatal" wounds. But even the most injured child was able to tell him his name.

The first priority was to establish who was still alive and then assess them to see who needed treatment and who was "beyond treatment". Patients were then put in priority order for treatment and evacuation.

At the hospital, operating theatres were cleared under a major accident plan in which the victims arriving at the accident and emergency unit were met by individual surgical and anaesthetic teams.

## 105 rounds fired in less than a minute

The guns/ Dum-dum rounds and four weapons found

A FIREARMS expert yesterday told the inquiry that Hamilton fired 105 rounds from one gun in the small school gym in less than a minute. Then he fired another into his mouth.

Malcolm Chisholm, aged 52, said Hamilton carried four powerful handguns and 743 rounds of ammunition, of which 501 were accounted for, into the primary school.

Many of the rounds were hollow-nosed and designed to mushroom on impact - similar to dum-dum bullets.

When Mr Chisholm, a ballistics expert with Tayside police, arrived at the scene two hours after the shooting, the gym was strewn with spent cartridge cases. He found two 3mm Browning automatic pistols, one with a hair trigger, and two .375 Smith and Wesson magnum revolvers. Mr Chisholm said all except one of the shots fired in the massacre were from the hair-triggered Browning. Tests on that pistol showed it could fire a full magazine of 20 shots in 5.46 seconds. It took 50.4 seconds to fire the 105 spent cartridges found in the gym, he said.

Mr Chisholm said 25 20-round magazines were also found, each marked with a yellow sticker to indicate the front end. "This was not standard practice - it was a ploy that informed the user which was front and back for speed of magazine exchange," he said in his report.

Four of the magazines were empty, three part-full, and the other 18 were full.

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switched the pistol from his right hand to his left and drew the Smith & Wesson revolver with his right hand. He then placed the muzzle of this gun in his mouth pointing upwards and pulled the trigger.

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Media/ Police back ITN after criticism by watchdog

ITN was criticised yesterday for intruding into the grief of families involved in the Dunblane massacre, writes Andrew Giff.

The Broadcasting Standards Council upheld two complaints against ITN, but its coverage was praised by the police and by one of the bereaved parents shown on its bulletins.

The council, which received 25 complaints, said most of the reporting was as measured and sympathetic as possible, but it upheld a complaint from a single viewer about ITN's early evening news because it dwelt for too long on families waiting for news outside the school.

The council, chaired by Lady Howe, said: "Shots were used of clearly identifiable families together with the sound of their cries of anguish... The council felt this was an unnecessary intrusion into the families' grief."

It criticised News at Ten for screening a brief interview with Agnes Hamilton, mother of the gunman Thomas Hamilton, saying it "failed to take account of the fact she too was a victim of the tragedy".

ITN said it was extremely disappointed by the rulings. "The massacre was a uniquely shocking event, and, as such, ITN told the BSC it would have been wrong to exclude all shots of distress. To do so would not have accurately reflected the horror felt by the people of Dunblane."

Chief Supt Louis Munn, of the Central police force, said: "ITN and the other British broadcasters showed great sensitivity."

One of the parents shown,

Lynne McMaster, whose five-year-old daughter Victoria died, said: "I was too distressed to watch any television at the time but I accept the cameras had to be there. I do not really feel there was an invasion of privacy."

The council's adjudication was criticised by the Independent Television Commission, which said it believed "its licenses generally responded with care and sensitivity". The commission has yet to adjudicate.

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# Party faces loss of control of troubled borough Labour ultimatum to council rebels

Patrick Wintour, Chief Political Correspondent

LABOUR tonight risks losing control of the borough of Hackney in east London when 38 councillors, including 18 rebels, will be asked to sign an undertaking to abide by party rules or face permanent debarment.

They will also be asked to abide by whips approved by the party's general secretary, Tom Sawyer, accept the authority of the group's leader, Nick Tallentire, and promise they will not make group decisions outside party structures, a reference to claims that the rebels have been running a party inside a party.

Labour's National Executive Committee last week disbanded the Labour Group — its four most senior officers — following nearly a year of internal battles. The conflict, in one of Britain's poorest boroughs, does not follow the Labour left-right line. One observer, the Hackney Liberal Democrat deputy leader, Keith Stevenson, claims the 18 rebels should be seen as modernisers. One rebel is David Phillips, a retired senior civil servant and one-time member of the private office of former

Labour minister Tony Croft. Apart from the demand that group members follow the whip, a central point of dispute has been the future of Bernard Crofton, the housing director, recruited in 1990 to improve the council's abysmal services and last month described by MPs as "a courageous and outstanding public servant".

Mr Crofton's energy in tackling fraud split the party. "They cannot think this is a bit of paper like the Munich agreement"

Following allegations of misconduct and racial discrimination, he was dismissed in March 1995. He had clashed with Sam Yeboah, whom he accused at one point of not doing enough to tackle fraud. Mr Crofton appealed and, with the new council leadership in power, was reinstated in November 1995. However, last month a council-commissioned report by Ian MacDonald QC into the instant fraud agreed that Mr Crofton should be given

credit for grading the council into action, but also praised Mr Yeboah, and claimed that Mr Crofton won his job back under false pretences and should be reported to police.

The council, with Liberal Democrat and Conservative support, has now agreed that the report not be published and voted not to refer the issue to the police. The split deepened when 18 rebels boycotted the group's annual general meeting on May 7 in protest at elections being deferred. Eight days later they defied a group instruction not to vote for Linda Hibberd, a supporter of Mr Crofton and the deputy mayor, for the post of mayor. Mr Tallentire's critics claimed he had sought to smear Ms Hibberd. In an index of the bitterness within the group, Mr Tallentire insisted yesterday: "It will not be good enough if the rebels simply sign the paper promising to abide by party rules and think it's back to square one. They cannot think this is a bit of meaningless paper like the Munich agreement." However, the deputy leader, Meral Ece, said the national party had misunderstood the council. "Services in Hackney have been a disaster. We want to improve them."

## Hume leaves real debate to later



John Hume: main aim is for talks, not votes

David Sharrack, Ireland Correspondent

WITH one last tour of the town he loves, John Hume yesterday pressed home his message that a vote for the SDLP in today's Northern Ireland elections is a vote for peace.

Beyond that the Social Democratic and Labour Party leader is playing his cards close to his chest on the impending talks — where the real action will be. Mr Hume never wanted an election, warning it would drive the protagonists into more extreme positions ahead of the talks. His party has thus fought a low-key campaign.

He is also often accused of making "John Hume's Single Transferable Speech", and yesterday was no different. Only 10 days before reaching his objective of all-party talks on Northern Ireland's future, it is hardly surprising that on his tour of Londonderry he would not forsake the script.

So he declined to answer "hypothetical" questions like what he will do if there is no IRA ceasefire and the June 10 talks occur without Sinn Fein. His task was to get through today's elections and go to the talks "to reach agreement among our divided people".

But Mr Hume's colleague Joe Hendron, MP for West Belfast, this week branded Sinn Fein sectarian and fascist. Mr Hume tiptoed around the charge, saying: "There are differences between the parties, but to create a positive atmosphere we have not engaged in criticising other parties."

Did he think the SDLP will for the first time emerge as the province's most popular party? "I don't know. We don't normally." But he did admit the unionists were "all gutting one another".

Would he do a deal with the Ulster Unionist Party leader, David Trimble, in the absence of Sinn Fein, if the IRA does not call a ceasefire? "Those are all hypothetical questions. Our objective is to do everything we can to ensure everybody will be at the talks. We have the best opportunity in 25 years to take the gun out of Irish politics forever. It's up to everybody to do everything they can to achieve that."

## 1 in 3 born outside marriage

David Brindle, Social Services Correspondent

ONE in three births is occurring outside marriage, according to provisional statistics published yesterday. They show that 33.5 per cent of all babies born in 1995 in England and Wales were born to unmarried women. The figures show a resumption, albeit at a slower rate, of the growth in births outside marriage after earlier signs that the trend was tailing off.

The rate in 1994 was 32.4 per cent, little changed from 32.3 per cent in 1993.

The one in three rate compares with 19.2 per cent (fewer than one in five) in 1985 and 9.2 per cent in 1978. Although Britain's rate has outstripped the European Union average, it still lags well behind those of Scandinavian countries. More than half the births to unmarried women in Britain are registered by both parents at the same address — indicating cohabitation.

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lives

Doctors/ How accident plan was put into operation

More than 100 people were killed on the day of the crash at Heathrow. The morning after the crash, the police were busy with the bodies of the victims and the wreckage of the plane.

John Hume: main aim is for talks, not votes

1 in 3 born outside marriage

David Brindle, Social Services Correspondent

ONE in three births is occurring outside marriage, according to provisional statistics published yesterday.

The rate in 1994 was 32.4 per cent, little changed from 32.3 per cent in 1993.

The one in three rate compares with 19.2 per cent (fewer than one in five) in 1985 and 9.2 per cent in 1978. Although Britain's rate has outstripped the European Union average, it still lags well behind those of Scandinavian countries. More than half the births to unmarried women in Britain are registered by both parents at the same address — indicating cohabitation.

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# 6 WORLD NEWS

## Srebrenica slaughter unearthed

Julian Borger in Tuzla

UNITED Nations war crimes investigators yesterday unearthed human remains on an isolated stretch of northern Bosnian roadside, suspected to be one of several mass graves containing the bodies of Muslims massacred by Serb troops last July.

An international team of investigators dug three exploratory holes in a roadside in the village of Caraka, eight miles west of the former Muslim enclave of Srebrenica, and found parts of four skeletons. Across the road they found hundreds of shell casings.

They cordoned off the area and marked their finds with numbered flags. But their forensic work on their mountain of evidence of Bosnian atrocities stands in marked contrast to the failure of the international community to bring to trial the leaders who gave the orders.

Up to 8,000 people are believed to have been murdered after Serb troops overran the UN-designated "safe area" of Srebrenica last July.

As investigators pored over the evidence, the tribunal headquarters in The Hague announced that the first suspect to stand trial for the Srebrenica killings would appear before the international court tomorrow.

The suspect, a 24-year-old soldier, Drazen Erdemovic, has reportedly admitted that he took part in mass executions at a collective farm near the river port of Zvornik. He was handed over by the Serbian government, seen to show co-operation with the Hague, and as stipulated by the Dayton peace agreement.

But Mr Erdemovic is small fry, and the Serbian president, Slobodan Milosevic, has failed so far to hand over Bosnian Serb political and military leaders indicted by the UN tribunal for masterminding "ethnic cleansing".

Mr Milosevic's non-compliance was highlighted when the Bosnian Serb military commander, General Ratko Mladic, appeared at a funeral for one of his officers in Serbia earlier this month. No attempt was made to arrest him, although he has twice been indicted by the Hague tribunal for war crimes.

Radoslav Karadzic, the Bosnian Serb political leader who has also been indicted for war crimes, remains at large and fought off an attempt by the international community's high representative in Bosnia, Carl Bildt, to sideline him a fortnight ago. Since then, Mr Karadzic appears to have consolidated his power.

The hardliners' ascendancy has been reflected in a renewed drive towards the ethnic partition of the country, in clear defiance of Dayton which envisages a unitary state.

Muslim houses in northern Bosnia have been dynamited in the past week, and a fresh wave of Muslim expulsions has been unleashed in the Serb-held town of Teslic.

The Bosnian government has said it does not believe fair elections will be possible with hardline separatists still in control of Serb territory.

The US special envoy to the Balkans, John Kornblum, is due in Belgrade tomorrow to add to the pressure on Mr Milosevic, and a Balkan summit, chaired by the US secretary of state, Warren Christopher, is held in Geneva on Sunday, when war crimes suspects will top the agenda.



Face in the crowd... A supporter holds up a life-size portrait of Gennady Zyuganov as the Communist Party leader speaks at a rally in Krasnodar, southern Russia. Opinion polls show his earlier lead over President Boris Yeltsin has slipped away less than three weeks before the presidential election on June 16. PHOTOGRAPH: YURI KOCHETKOV

## Albania may pay the price for election 'abuse'

John Palmer in Brussels and Helena Smith in Tirana

THE European Union is ready to abandon plans for closer links with Albania if reports of the rigging of the first round of the country's general election last weekend are confirmed by international observers.

Opposition supporters in Tirana, who claim that at least two of their number have been killed by government forces, held the first of a series of nationwide rallies yesterday to press President Sali Berisha to annul Sunday's poll.

The Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe is still finalising its official report on the election, but its officials were quoted yesterday as claiming that supporters of President

Berisha's Democratic Party had engaged in "shameless abuse" of the electoral process.

The European Commission said yesterday it had received "disturbing reports" about the conduct of the election. In Washington, the state department confirmed that it had received preliminary accounts from more than 150 election observers about problems at a number of polling stations.

Britain expressed concern about the conduct of the election, and hoped "the political parties will be able to reach some political accommodation soon so parliamentary democratic pluralism in Albania is safeguarded."

Albania also faces demands for an international investigation into allegations of violence by government forces, which could lead to its

suspension from the 28-nation Council of Europe.

EU foreign ministers are expected to review longer term plans for closer links with Albania, which has already been granted a trade and co-operation deal, when they meet in Luxembourg on June 10. The EU paid tribute

to Western embassy officials throughout the run-down capital conceded yesterday that the ballot had ensured the end of President Berisha's honeymoon with the West, although they said charting a future course of action was far from easy. Diplomats maintain that in spite

of his increasingly embarrassing autocratic streak, Mr Berisha is also seen as the man best placed to forge ahead with unpopular market reforms.

"What may be best for the region is not necessarily best for the democratic process in this country," one Western official lamented.

Opposition politicians, who called on their supporters to boycott the poll midway through Sunday's voting, appear in no mood for concessions.

Despite President Berisha's attempts yesterday to temper the size of his victory by saying the Socialists — successors to the former Communist rulers — had gained more votes than initially thought, opposition spokesmen said they would not be content until the international community oversaw a fresh election.

"We are determined to expose Berisha for what he is — a dictator — and under no circumstances will we agree to enter parliament," said Gramoz Pashko, of the Democratic Alliance party. "The international community, and particularly the European Union, must be made to feel

## The ballot ensured the end of President Berisha's honeymoon with the West

Earlier this year to the way the Tirana government has refrained from exploiting tensions between ethnic Albanians and the authorities in Serbian-ruled Kosovo.

The election, the third multi-party poll since communism collapsed in 1990, had been billed as a turning point in the transition to democracy.

guilty about its complicit acceptance of the situation here." Increasingly, the opposition leaders say they have come under pressure from their followers to step up their resistance to the government with nationwide rallies, strikes and roadblocks.

Reports of the deaths of two activists, including a pregnant woman, and claims that four others had gone missing have radically raised the political temperature.

"We are trying our best to contain people's anger at having seen their votes stolen," Mr Pashko said.

"But we may lose control. It would be much better and cheaper if the European Union sent in 4,000 monitors to observe a new and clean election now, rather than having to send in 25,000 troops at a later date."

## EU socialist leader slams Turkey over human rights

Chris Nuttall in Ankara

PAULINE Green, leader of the socialist bloc in the European Parliament, last night condemned Turkey for going backwards on democracy, human rights and the issues of its Kurdish minority and Cyprus.

At the end of a fact-finding mission to Turkey, the MEP said that the Ankara government would have to improve its record before the parliament would approve its slice of £3 billion in aid for 13 countries.

The leader of the largest group in the parliament also said Turkey should not hold out hope of full membership of the European Union while abuses continued.

"The release of money from the EU budget is down to us in the parliament to agree, and really we have to see some of the signs of the delivery of some promises made on human rights and democracy before we do so," she said.

The parliament reluctantly approved a customs union between Turkey and the EU in December, but the socialist group went on to set up a permanent Turkey Watch to monitor the country's performance on democratic and human rights. A delegation from it, led by Ms Green, has met government ministers and visited the troubled south-east in recent days.

She said she had been discouraged by the trip: pledges by the government to lift a state of emergency in the south-east where military forces are fighting Kurdish separatist guerrillas, only meant this would be replaced by draconian powers given to provincial governors.

The delegation had found that the reform of Article 9 of the penal code, limiting freedom of expression, had led to the use of another section of the law which was equally effective at jailing writers and academics who discussed the Kurdish issue.

"On this basis, in Britain, the Scottish National Party would be banned and people would be imprisoned for saying they wanted independence from England," she said.

She admitted that eight months of political instability in Turkey had not helped the situation but said there was no commitment in any of the major parties' manifestos to tackle the problem of human rights.

Quoting the fact that the chairman of the Turkish Human Rights Association was facing eight court cases against him for highlighting abuses, she said: "We are very worried there might be an attempt to crack down, even to ban some of these associations and foundations."

"We hear increasingly of people who have been tortured or have just disappeared. It's just not acceptable. Turkey has a long way to go."

## French monk forgave future Algerian killer in letter to God

Alex Duval Smith in Paris

COME of seven French monks murdered by Algerian terrorists, had forgiven his death. Yesterday, his family released a letter in which Dom Christian gives thanks to his future murderer, whom he hopes to meet in paradise.

Prior Christian and six other monks from Tibhirine, south-west of Algiers, are believed to have had their throats cut last Tuesday, after being held for two months by Islamic fundamentalists from the extreme Islamist Group (GIA).

The letter, which he had told his family to open after his death, was written in January 1994, after the GIA first threatened his monastery. Entitled *A Dieu* (To God), it reveals a love of Islam and a commitment to Algeria, where violence has claimed about 50,000 lives since 1993.

Dom Christian writes: "If one day — and it could be violent as mine but anonymous and greeted with indifference. My life is worth no more than any other, no less."

Dom Christian said he did not want Islam to be blamed. "It is too easy to identify this religion with fundamentalism and extremism. Algeria for me is something else: it's a body and a soul."

Giving thanks to his future assailant, he writes: "And you, too, last-minute friend who will not have known what you were doing, I want to thank you. May we meet again, in paradise, with the Father who is ours. Amen. *Allah*."

Politicians and more than 10,000 Parisians laid flowers at the Trocadero on Tuesday evening in memory of the seven Trappist monks. Last Sunday, French churches tolled muffled bells — an event usually reserved for the death of a pope.

But there was controversy as it emerged that the French foreign ministry had negotiated with the GIA for two months to try to secure their release. It also emerged yesterday that rivalry between overseas and inland branches of the French secret services may have hampered the negotiations.

Even though no bodies have been found, the Algerian government confirmed this week that it believed the truth in claiming to have killed the monks.

## World news in brief

### González knew about death squads says former official

A FORMER chief of Spain's civil guard told the supreme court yesterday that the former prime minister, Felipe González, knew about a 1980s "dirty war" against Basque separatists.

Luis Roldán, who is alleged anti-terrorist Basque businessman, told the Madrid court that the former interior minister, José Barrionuevo, had told him in 1990 that the prime minister was aware of the secret campaign against ETA. He also said that it was part of the socialist government's policy.

Mr Roldán has said he

### Priest driven into exile

ABBE PIERRE has gone into exile in Italy after saying he had suffered too much from attacks over his alleged anti-terrorist activities.

The Franciscan monk, once seen as a living saint for his work with the poor and homeless, told a French Catholic magazine he might end his days at the Benedictine monastery in Pragla, near Padua.

Last month, Abbé Pierre, aged 83, was ordered to leave a French anti-racism organisation after he supported the philosopher, Roger Garaudy, whose book questioned the extent of Nazi massacres of Jews.

### Ferry crew on death charges

The captain and crew of the overloaded ferry that sank in Lake Victoria were charged yesterday with causing the deaths of 615 passengers.

Captain Jumanne Rume Mwiru and eight crew members appeared in court in Mwanza, Tanzania. Survivors claim the captain and crew took bribes to allow people without tickets aboard. — AP.

### 'Monster' turns up on LA porch

THE fugitive Los Angeles gangster and best-selling author "Monster" Eddy Scott was found by police sitting on a porch in south central LA signing autographs.

Scott, whose 1993 book, *Monster: The Autobiography of an LA Gang Member*, sold 100,000 copies, and is being turned into a Hollywood film, was unarmed and went quietly.

The convicted murderer will spend another year in jail. He was not too upset, said a friend: "He said prison is just the place to do some serious writing."

### Rage campaign

Belgian road safety groups have launched a campaign to restore calm to the country's roads. Insurer ABB reports that more than half its clients experienced daily aggression when driving, dubbed road rage. — Reuter.

### Gadafy's threat

The Libyan leader, Muammar Gadafy, has renewed his threat to deport Palestinians. He expelled 2,000 last year to protest at the Israeli-Palestinian peace accords. — AP.

### Tutsis killed

Up to 80 people may be dead and 25 wounded after suspected Hutu rebels attacked a camp for displaced Tutsis in Ruyci, central Burundi, on Tuesday. — Reuter.

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# Unity could be loser in the race for prosperity

## THE NEW CHINA

In the second report in a series, Andrew Higgins in Beijing speaks to an economist who fears a Yugoslavia-style disintegration of the state

AT THE Success Club, a pleasure dome of marble, polished wood, and plaster nymphs run by paramilitary police, the winners and losers of China's chaotic dash for prosperity collide on massage tables.

The People's Armed Police previously used the premises, just down the road from the Beijing Worker's Stadium, to show Communist Party propaganda films.

The force uses the building to make money from brief but profitable encounters between the ever-widening poles of China's economic boom.

The race for prosperity is a frenzied but increasingly uneven competition that, according to a prominent Chinese economist, could push the country towards Yugoslavia-style disintegration.

On one side are the new rich of the Chinese capital, men with shiny suits and mobile phones. On the other are the have-nots from impoverished hinterlands, among them refugees such as Miss Li, a young textile worker turned masseuse who came to Beijing after losing her job at a bankrupt state factory in Anhui province.

According to Hu Angang, a researcher at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, the gulf between rich and poor threatens China's ability to hold together and avoid disintegration into an anarchic jumble of feuding fiefdoms.

"The biggest and most important task today is to avoid China splitting apart," said Mr Hu, an outspoken critic of the trickle-down theory championed by Deng Xiaoping as an antidote to the stagnation left by Maoist egalitarianism.

While coastal provinces, blessed by Beijing with tax breaks and flush with cash from Hong Kong and Taiwan, have raced ahead with double-digit annual growth, poorer regions are lagging far behind.

The per capita gross domestic product of China's richest region, the Zhuhai Special Economic Zone, is now 86 times higher than that in the poorest area, Qionghong county in Guizhou.

Former Yugoslavia is a very good example of what can happen if regional gaps become too large and central government loses too much power," said Mr Hu. "On the surface, the war there was not about economics but an ethnic conflict. The root cause, though, was economic."

When Mr Deng's reforms began in 1978, Anhui province had a per capita GDP only slightly less than coastal Fujian. Today, both are far better off. But they have also grown far apart; Fujian's per capita figure is more than twice that of Anhui.

This widening gap, believe Mr Hu and like-minded advocates of strong central government, stokes separatist sentiments among both rich and poor.

Just as Slovenia and Croatia, the richest parts of former Yugoslavia, were the first to bolt, prosperous Chinese coastal regions could, they say, succumb to the same temptation.

In inland areas, the poorest of which have large non-Chinese populations, economic grievances fuel resentment against Beijing and inflame ethnic tensions.

Tibet, where Beijing was yesterday reported to have issued an ultimatum to "splitists" to surrender and repent, comes 131st in the United Nations table of general development — an index combining life expectancy, literacy and other measures of well-being. Shanghai and Beijing are ranked 1st, ahead of South Korea and Singapore.

China is a vast country and the centre must have the money and authority to redress the balance," said Mr Hu. "No matter who is in charge, the central government cannot let provinces drift away. I want to change the rules of the game between the centre and provinces."

Instead of being silenced as an alarmist heretic, Mr Hu appears to have the ear of the Chinese leadership, which looks favourably on a coterie of neo-conservative scholars who see danger in China's fast-track boom.

But Mr Hu has enraged coastal barons with demands that Beijing scrap privileges granted to special economic zones by Mr Deng, now aged 81 and largely eclipsed as a political force.

Li Youwei, party chief in Shenzhen, which is a neighbour of Hong Kong, accuses him of trying to revive the ruinous egalitarian frenzy of Mao's Great Leap Forward and reverse Mr Deng's policies.

"Deng's road was correct but the situation has changed," replied Mr Hu. "We can't say a single word from Deng is worth 10,000 words by anyone else."

The economist has the backing of powerful patrons. His views mesh with the arguments of Zhu Rongji, a politician member in charge of the economy who has struggled to halt rapid decentralisation produced by Mr Deng's free-market frenzy.

Other supporters include the leaders of poor provinces such as Anhui, the governor of which phoned last week to invite him to address local cadres.

The New China News Agency, which produces secret daily reports for "internal reference", included a paper written by Mr Hu on the parallels with Yugoslavia in one of its submissions to the Communist Party leadership — the modern version of imperial-era memorials to the throne.

Evidence of the state's dangerous weakness, according to Mr Hu, can be seen in the steady erosion of central government revenue.

"If the central government wants to increase its authority, it must first increase its money," he said. Beijing's revenues accounted for 8.5 per cent of GDP in 1986 but have since dropped to 3.5 per cent — less than the 5.6 per cent received by Belgrade on the eve of Yugoslavia's civil war.

The emergence of enterprises like the Success Club illustrates the risks behind such statistics.

"The money secured by the central government cannot even support our army," warned Mr Hu. "This forces soldiers to go into business to make their own money. No army in the world should be allowed to do business. Money must come from the government. If it doesn't, corruption in the army will grow worse and worse."

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Queuing for aid... North Korean farmers in Unpa county, 90 miles south of Pyongyang, wait in line to receive Red Cross supplies of rice and vegetable oil. The relief organisation yesterday launched an appeal for \$3.5 million worth of aid to avert famine and help the victims of last year's floods, which left more than 500,000 people homeless. However, North Korean officials insist there is no problem in feeding, clothing and housing the people.

# Hostage mystery deepens

Suzanne Goldenberg South Asia Correspondent

FOR months, they had been all but forgotten. But the confessions of a jailed guerrilla leader have badly shaken the complacency of Indian officials and caused genuine concern about the fate of the four Western hostages in Kashmir.

Keith Mangan and Paul Wells, both Britons, Donald Hutchings, an American, and Dirk Hasert, a German, have rarely commanded the attention given to Western hostages in Lebanon during the 1980s. Now 11 months (on June 4) after they were seized at gunpoint during a trekking holiday, Indian officials cannot agree whether they are alive or dead.

"This whole thing is very mysterious," a senior official said. "We really don't know what to think."

Ever since his capture in Srinagar a month ago, the Pakistani guerrilla leader, Naseer Ahmed Sodoke, has been questioned repeatedly by intelligence, army, and border-security officials as well as Kashmiri police, the FBI, Scotland Yard and Western diplomats.

But officials have found no evidence either to support or to disprove Naseer's claim that the four tourists were executed on December 13 last year and secretly buried in the forest near Magam, an isolated hamlet in the Anantnag district.

Naseer's confessions, which have not been consistent, have also become entangled in the ongoing rivalry between various branches of the security apparatus.

Local police in Anantnag, that Naseer's two sources had left the valley last autumn — months before the alleged execution. That the hostages followed a dispute between local and Kashmiri members of al-Faran — the group which has claimed the kidnapping — over the beheading of a fifth Norwegian hostage last August.

While Indian intelligence and military officials have become more gloomy about the prospects of the Westerners' return, local police say they

During a routine raid in Srinagar on April 27, Naseer, the financial chief of the Harakat ul-Ansar, the group believed to be the parent of al-Faran, fell into the police net.

What surprised his Kashmiri interrogators was that Naseer volunteered information about the hostages; he had not been questioned about the four men in the first few days after his arrest.

Officials say Naseer was entrusted with channelling money from Harakat's backers in Pakistan to its fighters in Kashmir. He had also served a spell as group commander. Both roles would have ensured he knew what the kidnapers were doing, although he claims to have fallen out of favour with the Harakat leadership in recent months.

As for the organisation itself, it has declined to comment on Naseer's revelations. A curfew was placed on separatist leaders and on parts of Srinagar ahead of voting today in the Kashmiri capital and other areas in the final round of India's general elections. Separatists have threatened to retaliate against Kashmiris who ignore the call to boycott the polls.

Officials cannot agree whether those being held in Kashmir are alive or dead

who were most closely involved with collecting intelligence about the four tourists, are unwilling to admit that they may have got it wrong. But the fact remains that there has been no sign of the four men for months.

Naseer claimed he learnt of the killings in January from two gunmen who had been guarding the tourists, but were not present when they were allegedly killed. Kashmiri militants have cast further doubt on his claim, telling the Guardian

Advertisement for 'abuse' featuring a large image of a person and text.

Advertisement for 'The Link' featuring a mobile phone and text.

Advertisement for B&Q conservatories, featuring images of conservatories and promotional text: "SAVE £300 ON THESE GREAT CONSERVATORIES", "£300 OFF WAS £1,299 £999", "EARN TESCO CLUBCARD POINTS AT B&Q NOW!", "A BIGGER CHOICE A BETTER PRICE", "B&Q YOU CAN DO IT WHEN YOU B&Q IT!"

Advertisement for Lifetime HealthCare from Legal & General, featuring text: "Our 3-in-1 healthcare plan offers you so much for so little", "1 Private Medical Insurance", "2 Medical Cash Plan\*", "3 Accident Insurance\*", "LIFETIME HEALTHCARE FROM LEGAL & GENERAL", "FIND OUT MORE TODAY. PHONE US FREE QUOTING REF AD 0360", "FREE 0800 560560", "WE'RE OPEN MONDAY TO FRIDAY 9AM - 5PM", "Send to Legal & General - HealthCare, FREEPOST BR7347, Hove, East Sussex. BN3 1BR", "Legal & General logo".

First get the meat right
Food safety is the key to solving the beef crisis

NOBODY seeking to solve Britain's beef crisis would choose to start the task from here. More than two months after the start of the crisis, British policy remains in disarray. Initiatives that should have been taken have been ignored altogether, inadequately implemented or lamentably explained. Much else has been mishandled. If anyone wanted an illustration of the manifold perils of imperfect policy making, this crisis provides them all. Nevertheless, here is where we are, and here is a had place to be. There may be every conceivable reason for attacking the Government for having got us here, but its failings do not absolve others from trying to plot a coherent course out of the shambles. There is a need to answer the question: if you were put in charge of beef policy today, what would you do? Here is a possible framework. First, you would focus every energy on the real issue — food safety — and not impale the policy on secondary questions, however important, such as the international beef trade. Getting the meat right is the key to everything else, and you would start by recognising that we are still getting it wrong. One way of changing that is by slaughtering every single cow in the country, but this would quite literally be overkill. There is no economic or moral case for such a policy, and there is no scientific case either. That does not mean that there should be no culling policy at all. But it should be an efficient policy not an inefficient one. Its overriding purpose must be to isolate and destroy the danger to public health, which means removing cattle of such an age that their risk of infection is high, and removing all those which are otherwise shown to be at quantifiable risk of being infected. Having settled that this was the most efficient cull policy, it should be organised more

urgently and publicised more energetically than it has been. But the real initiatives, all of which should have been taken long ago, are in quality control. Cattle should be tagged, in order to ensure that each affected animal can be located and accounted for. Having tagged the animals, it would then be possible to isolate a large number of genuinely BSE-free herds, according to agreed criteria, whose meat and other beef products can be passed as genuinely risk-free. Slaughterhouse regulation enforcement should be conspicuously increased and improved, again on the basis of recognised standards, providing a further public guarantee. All beef feed and all beef-derived products should be better labelled, with an emphasis on clearly understandable information to consumers. Finally, an enhanced and effective food hygiene monitoring service should be established, independent of producer interests and government, a public watchdog enabling consumers to weigh their own choices and make their own decisions. All of this takes time, and none of it is easy. There are no simple routes out of a complex crisis such as this. Given the international situation in the beef industry, none of these measures should be adopted unilaterally. Nor should the industry expect that the transformation can be achieved overnight. Some of these measures have already been discussed, others have been adopted, a few have been implemented. But speed and cohesion of effort have been absent. There have been hesitations and inconsistencies and a failure to prepare and explain. Even efficiently implemented, this intensified regulatory approach would probably fail to satisfy some foreign governments. But it would offer a scientifically coherent path for public policy and, over time, it is the route which Britain and its allies should follow.

Taxing questions in Scotland
Why the right policy will make Labour unpopular

REPORTS over the past fortnight that the Labour Party is thinking of ditching the so-called "tartan tax" have been authoritatively denied. But that is not quite the end of the matter. Labour is clearly apprehensive that the pledge to give tax-raising powers to the proposed Scottish parliament may now be ebbing into a vote-loser. Tony Blair and his lieutenants have not yet made a final decision about how to play the issue at the general election, but it is increasingly likely that Labour will go for a compromise: retain the powers, but pledge not to exercise them during the first four-year term of the new parliament. If this is indeed to be Labour's policy it is the right one, even if the shift is likely to provoke much criticism from supporters and opponents alike. Tax-raising powers have an entirely legitimate place in any effective system of devolution. If you give nations or regions the power to rule themselves, they should also have rights to raise revenue. It would therefore be wrong of Labour to scrap the powers, especially as many Scots see their inclusion as a litmus-test of the seriousness of the latest devolution package, after so many previous disappointments. The Scots should have the power to raise their own revenue, and so should any other part of the country which votes for and needs the other tests for regional government. Yet to have the powers is not the same as to use them. There may well

come a time when a future Scottish parliament finds itself impelled towards raising extra taxes (and if it is, income tax is not necessarily the only or the best basis on which to raise them). But that time is certainly not now. Britain has not even begun the process of devolution from Whitehall and Westminster. There are huge steps to be taken before the question of raising taxes is in any real sense relevant. For Labour to commit itself now to raising revenue in two or three years time is nonsensical posturing. It is far more principled to say that the powers will be created, while pledging that they will not be used in the first term of the devolved parliament. Labour's opponents (and some supporters) will seize on any change of policy to make points which cannot be dismissed. It is not very flattering for Labour, apparently so strong in Scottish politics, to shift its ground on an issue so close to its heart. It is a tribute to the fact that the much-derided Michael Forsyth is actually a more effective politician than his enemies admit. And if Mr Blair can be shamed on tax, he is really as solid as he seems in asserting that the West Lothian question can be ignored? The Conservatives will not be the only ones to ask what else Labour is prepared to shed. Nationalists will see the move as proof that Labour will betray the cause when the going gets tough. Labour may have chosen the right policy, but it will not have an easy ride for doing so.

Mixing in the wrong company
The president is tarnished again by Whitewatergate

BILL CLINTON REGRETS ... that three former business partners of his are crooks. Of course, he is not challenging the verdict: it is just on a personal level that he is "very sorry for Governor (Jim) Tucker and Jim and Susan McDougal." Very sorry — that they committed fraud, or that they did not get away with it, or that he ever got involved, or that it is happening in election year? As with the rest of this affair, including all the extra bits from bimbos to suicide via the sacking of travel agents, nothing is entirely clear. But if anything can save the fortunes of presidential challenger Bob Dole, it is the new impetus now given to Whitewatergate by Tuesday's verdict in Little Rock. No one should be held entirely responsible for his or her friends, but this goes a long way beyond accidental entanglement. Mr Clinton's testimony was not central: he was denying the

allegation, made by a banker found guilty of illegal practice, that, as governor, he had lobbied for an improper loan to one of the defendants. But Republican opponents (not Mr Dole who remains sanctimoniously above it all) can now crow that the jurors preferred the evidence of a convicted felon. The complexities of Whitewater need a very large flowchart to explain. As one Republican consultant said cheerfully yesterday: "The public doesn't understand the issue or what went on." But the Clintons are only mired more deeply by the confusion. Whatever the details, they certainly chose the wrong partners for their unfortunate land venture in the Ozarks near the yet more unfortunately-named Crooked Creek. Their best defence appears to be that most small-town politicians get tangled up with people who are slightly dubious. Perhaps, but they don't all go on to become president of the big country.



Letters to the Editor
Whether breast is best

THE breast-versus-bottle summary used to illustrate your article on the possible contamination of baby milk by phthalates read strangely (The 5-million-ton plastic pearl in food, May 26). You could summarise the pros and cons of sexual intercourse versus artificial insemination as alternative ways to make babies by pointing out that the traditional method, though natural and designed for the purpose, also has the downside of being "potentially painful or embarrassing to do", is "affected in quantity by possible quality by tiredness, stress and diet", and is difficult for other people to help with. You might not be surprised if people decided not to bother. Breast-feeding (like sex) is a lot less fuss than the modern alternative, in the right circumstances, is a source of intense pleasure and intimacy for both partners. Gill Boden, 52 Avondale Road, Cardiff CF1 9NW.

THE focus of your piece on breast-feeding mothers returning to work was misplaced. By the time their mothers return to work, the majority of babies have not been breast-fed for some weeks. Thirty per cent of babies are still receiving breast milk at six weeks, while 14 weeks is given as a return-to-work date. Most mothers who give up breast-feeding do so because they "did not have enough milk" — which is by no means the simple reason it appears to be. Ignorance, lack of confidence in breast-feeding and interference with the natural process over the years has meant that women have lost the skills and knowledge their great-grandmothers "took in with their mothers' milk". The negative image of breast-feeding is fostered by comments such as those in your article. Mothers who breast-feed need more than just improved working conditions and longer maternity leave. They need information and support to make their own decisions on how to feed their babies and the continued information and support whatever their choice. Barbara Francis, 49 Petersham Avenue, Epsley, Surrey KT14 7EY.

COMPARE government policy on baby milk and education, with particular reference to parental choice. As to education, "only you" can possibly know what is best for your child. On the question of whether you are poisoning your baby, you have no need and no right even to know that a question arises. Nigel Blake, 49 Petersham Avenue, Epsley, Surrey KT14 7EY.

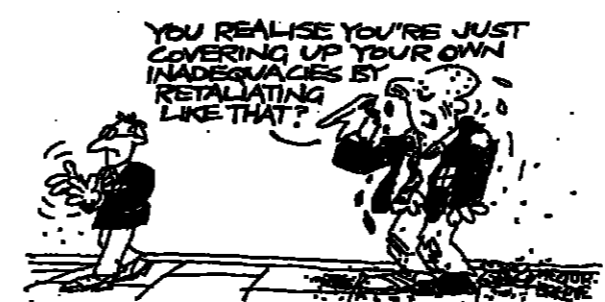
How reconciliation between the parties can ease the divorce

ABOUR did not vote for, or support, the extension of the process of divorce to 21 months in many cases, as your leader suggests (A divorce bill to embrace, May 26). On the contrary, I expressed our reservations as to the additional three months proposed by the Tory dissidents in committee and, in a free vote, both I and the overwhelming majority of Labour members voted against the extension of the 12-month period to 18 months when this was debated on the floor of the House. We cannot be expected to give the Government unconditional support for a bill that unnecessarily protracts the process of divorce. This can only do harm to children, the parties themselves and any new relationships they may have for years to come. Your call for Labour to "embrace" the Family Law Bill is misguided and over-hasty. In its present form, the bill fails to provide adequate protection for the victims of domestic violence and the interests of children. The Women's Aid Federation of England refers to the "serious problems and dangers which women and children escaping violence will face in the divorce process if the bill goes through in its present form". The NSPCC has stated that the bill in its current form works "against the best interests of children". We shall, in the light of

these and other legitimate concerns about the workability of the mechanisms proposed, continue to try to improve the bill throughout its remaining stages. The Government's willingness to respond positively is crucial to the creation of legislation capable of delivering a sensible and family-friendly divorce process. The opportunity to move towards this principled objective, rather than party political considerations, will determine whether or not Labour votes against the Family Law Bill at third reading. Paul Boateng MP, Labour Legal Affairs Spokesperson, House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA. WHILE politicians squabble, realign and score points over the Family Law Bill reforms, divorce continues to happen — and, if it is handled badly, children continue to suffer. The bill may now be flawed because of the continued tinkering and delays, but its implementation can still reduce this suffering. Any short-term political gain from the erosion and the possible destruction of the bill will result in the loss, to many children, of the chance of a protected future. Gay Cox, Family Mediation Scotland, 100 St Andrew's Street, South Lane, Edinburgh EH2 4BB.

Eine kleine ...

IN the furor over the use of Beethoven's version of Schiller's Ode to Joy for football matches (Pass Notes, May 29), no one seems to have recognised that the Government itself has a powerful motive for censoring this work. Schiller was inspired to write his poem after reading Saint-Pierre's project for a European union. The Abbé believed England would benefit from membership because "it is to the interest of the English nation that the authority of Parliament and the present constitution of government should always be preserved but in the right way, in spite of the measures of two tyrannical ministers." Derek Heater, 3 The Rotings, Rottingdean, Brighton BN2 7DX. DURING the last war British propaganda used the opening theme of Beethoven's Fifth Symphony, with its rhythm beating out V (for victory) in Morse code, as a symbol of the Allies' determination to liberate Europe. In that much greater crisis a much more powerful government was not put off by Beethoven's ethnic origins, and he became the composer who represented freedom. J Douglas, 40 Oldfield Close, Bickley, Bromley, Kent BR1 2LL. Please include a full postal address, even on e-mailed letters, and a telephone number. We may edit letters: shorter ones are more likely to appear.



What little boys should be made of

SYMPATHISE with Kevin Post (Letters, May 24) for his unhappy childhood, but having brought three sons to happy and secure adulthood I would suggest to him that "toughening up" is no answer. The child who has many friends will not be bullied. He will be secure, caring, popular and fun to be with. With these strengths behind him, bullying will not occur. Being a "macho man" is more likely to lead to violence than prevent it. Jeanne Pearce, 28 Melrose Road, London SW19 3HG. REMEMBER how I dealt with two bullies in my class. During a cricket match, I was put on to bowl and had the good fortune (or skill) to bowl both of them out in quick succession. After this, they treated me with more respect. There must be many ways of getting your own back while also "playing the game". F A Beal, 21 Gwynneth Street, Cathays, Cardiff CF2 4PH.

WHEN my son was bullied, I spoke to the aggressive boy in a civil manner and to his parents. His father expressed gratitude that I had been violent yet supportive of his son. Our combined action enabled the behaviour of an unhappy adolescent boy to be kindly but strongly addressed. My victimised son was relieved, the bully was relieved, two sets of parents were able to be mutually supportive, and no one was called "wimp". Children, young people and adults deserve strong and intelligent emotional support from adults. Andrea Fawcett, The Avenue, Bramptonford Speke, Epsom E85 5DW. BULLIES are the pathetic ones, not the so-called wimps. It is part of an immature, macho culture that glorifies in violence à la Mike Tyson. People should be taught to express themselves in more constructive ways. Keith Mackie, 4 East Preston Street, Edinburgh EH8 5QA.

The preferred face of Labour

YOUR report (PM slams ethnic mix in Commons, May 29) was of particular concern to those of us in the constituency of Bethnal Green and Bow, the last safe Labour seat in London to select its Labour Party candidate. It has been rumoured that senior Labour Party figures do not welcome the possibility of a Bengali candidate in this constituency, and might suspend the selection procedure, or even consider imposing a candidate here — in spite of the fact that Bethnal Green and Bow contains the highest single concentration of Bengali voters of any constituency in the country. Those people, of all ethnic origins, who would welcome the prospect of a Bengali MP representing the multi-cultural traditions of the East End, are looking to the party to support Tony Blair's commitment that he is "keen to make it possible for more Asian people to come through and represent constituencies,

particularly where there's a very high Asian population". (Cllr) Michael Keating, London Borough of Tower Hamlets, Flat B, 20 Baty Street, London E1 1RE. CONTRARY to what he says, Tony Blair is presently Asian people coming through the parliamentary selection process. Fifteen months ago, Labour suspended four Birmingham constituency Labour parties, with predominantly Asian populations, and removed their right to select election candidates. As a result, Birmingham, with its large black and Asian population, is likely to be represented in the next parliament by all-white MPs. Tony Blair should reopen these parties and allow parliamentary selections to happen. Kevin Mackie, Chair, Sparkbrook Constituency Labour Party, 1 Bloomfield Road, Moseley, Birmingham B13 9EZ.

A Country Diary

SNOWHOPE CLOSE: The Northern Naturalists' Union, celebrating 80 years of existence, held the first of its four annual field meetings this month. These are more than an exploration of the local flora and fauna. They're also welcome opportunities for old friends to exchange observations for, as most naturalists will testify, much of the pleasure in finding something rare comes from telling friends about it. So the conversation ranged over red cowslips, marjams, colonies of yellow star of Bethlehem and recollections of the nesting attempts of feral Himalayan whistling thrushes in woodland nearby. It finally gave the news of a hoopoe at Harperley Banks, that had arrived with the swallows in April and provided wonderful views as it dust-bathed, raised and lowered its pink crest, and picked insects off dandelion heads, just a few yards from a spellbound audience. Today's walk, led by local farmer, nat-

uralist and film-maker George Wall, took us over some of the wilder pastures in Wealdale, 1,000 feet above sea level, and our first discovery was a clutch of four curlews eggs on the point of hatching. One chick had just pecked through the shell and was about to force its way out. Spring is always late here, but this year is exceptional. When we descended into Walsley Burn we found birch trees just struggling into leaf and a ground flora of violets, celandines, wood sorrel, golden saxifrage and primroses reminiscent of late March rather than mid-May. Passing through weather-beaten Snowhope Farm George pointed out two magnificent specimen trees — the largest trees in the windswept landscape. "They are there used to be three," he told us, "but the third one died after the farmer hung himself from it." No wonder, if the growing season, then was as short as this one is likely to be. PHIL GATES

Tough words demand tougher sentences

YOUR article on sentencing policy (Outlook, May 26) asked this the way we want it? No, of course it isn't. We want a clean, comfy existence. However, we don't live on the rainbow; we live with rising neighbourhood crime. Criticism, or whingeing, is the chattering classes' laxative, but it doesn't solve the problem. Your article offered complaints, no solutions, and no concern whatsoever for victims of crime. How would you feel if you were single, female, walking home at night on a well-lit residential street, and were

pounced on by four men? They grab you, then the bag, and mercifully opt for the bag, you call the police, you're hustled into a patrol car and you see one of the assailants. How would you feel, seeing the judge convinced by the defence that it would be an unfair conviction based solely on one witness's account, and so he orders the jury to find the defendant not guilty? And how would you feel to know that the defendant had a prior conviction for the same offence (inadmissible evidence) but escaped jail on condition that he not re-offend in

the next two years, which he clearly did? If they had jailed him the first time, none of the above would have occurred. He will do it again. To another woman. While the Guardian whines about building prisons. Boot camps, prison or rehabilitation do not guarantee that criminal behaviour will be curbed; but all have had some success. They are a collective effort working toward controlling a problem. In the meantime, prison, even for a short time, gets them out of the neighbourhood. A Fernandez, London SW15.

Handwritten text: 1350 1210 1350





10 OBITUARIES

Sir Jack Layden

Silencing Mrs Thatcher

SIR Jack Layden, who has died aged 70, was one of the last great postwar working class municipal leaders...

letters after their name that Layden's own generation had been denied. Although he complained in his farewell speeches that his whole life had been spent in reading documents and files...

made the process of local council succession look like transparent, honest politics. His political life came to fruition when he was elected leader of the newly created Rotherham metropolitan borough council in 1973...

Metropolitan Authorities' in 1987 and took the fight for local democracy into Downing street where Margaret Thatcher encountered the plainest of plain speaking from Yorkshire. According to Jack, the Prime Minister sat there and listened while he spelt out some home truths...

At his very last meeting on the day before he retired he heard him call for a four-day week in order to help reduce unemployment. It was typical of Jack that his last message to new Labour was an old socialist one about the crazy out-of-balance working hours we have in Britain...

Jack Layden... folkloric humour. PHOTOGRAPH: JOHN WILDOOSE

Beneath the authoritative leader lay a man who had spent the latter part of his life without much power, unable to defend fully the claims of the powerless

me and a direct, witty speaking style that conveyed shrewd points in the midst of lots of folksy humour. To outsiders, the majority in a Labour heartland like Rotherham — there is today just one Tory councillor out of 95 — betokens one-party rule...

To be sure, he avoided the worst excesses of politically correct Labour municipal politics and delivered budgets that avoided confrontation with central government. He pioneered the right to buy for council tenants years before it was made into a token of Tory politics...

Joseph Mitchell

An eye on New York's eccentrics

THE DEATH of Joseph Mitchell at the age of 87 after a brief illness sees the passing of the last (and arguably greatest) pioneer practitioner of that unique form of literary non-fiction originally developed in the New Yorker magazine...

many highly eccentric — who belonged to what Ross called "low life", and what many of the subjects themselves called "the rough element". A collection of these was published in 1938 as My Bars Are Bent, a book now virtually unobtainable which its author came to regard as ephemeral juvenilia...

Jack Wyngaard

Jack Wyngaard

JACK WYNGAARD, who has died of a heart attack aged 87, was a principal dancer with London City Ballet. He had a brilliant, fluent technique and a warm and ebullient personality which endeared him to audiences, as well as to his colleagues...

He joined London City Ballet in August 1966 and was promoted principal in 1990. Wyngaard's technique was one that shone, in particular, in cheerful, demi-caractere roles. There was his Jester in Swan Lake, Mercutio in Romeo and Juliet, Blue Sailer in Les Patineurs, Fraux in Coppelia, and finally Balthazar in Matthew Pearl's recent Cinderella. They were all memorable...

Death Notices

CHRISTIE-JONES, on May 28th in Sheffield, Jan. Chatterbox, D.C. Hon. F.Z.S. Hon. F.L.B.S. Hon. Fellow American Soc. of Zoologists, N.Y. Acad. of Sci. Dr. Da. U.S. Veterans De Gierman-Farrand, Sir Henry Bell, Hon. Fellow Royal Soc. Emeritus Endocrinologist, aged 89 years, Emeritus Professor of Zoology in the University of Sheffield. Beloved husband of Nancy and dear father of Hugh, Gareth & Paul. Service at 11.30am, St. Andrew's Church, Sheffield. Donations to Sheffield Children's Hosp. or to John Venn's Hosp. Funeral Director, Sheffield 48 718.

Birthdays

HARRY BECKETT, jazz musician, 61; Neville Braybrooke, writer, 73; Ray Cooney, actor, author, producer, 67; Harry Enfield, writer, actor and comedian, 35; Peter Ellis, actor, 60; Andrew Farrell, rugby league player, 21; Michael Garrick, jazz pianist, composer, 68; The Rt Rev John Gladwin, Bishop of Guildford, 64; Christopher Hicks, chairman, Northern Foods, 58; Richard Hannon, racehorse trainer, 51; Sir David Knox, Conservative MP, 63; Timothy Llewellyn, director, Henry Moore Foundation, 49; Colin Myler, managing director, Daily and Sunday Mirrors, 44; Sir Duncan Nichol, former chief executive, NHS Management Executive, 55; Lord Richard QC, former Labour minister, 64; Bruce Roberts, cricketer, 67; Helen Sharman, Britain's first cosmonaut, 33; Agnès Varda, film writer and director, 68; Clint Walker, actor, 69; Tim Waterstone, bookseller, 57; Phillip Whitehead, chairman Consumers' Association, Labour MEP, 69; Bob Willis, cricketer, 47.

Jackdaw



Freebies MR RHODES had a reservation for seven people at 8.45pm one Friday night. Not until 9.45pm was the Rhodes party seated and there were nine of them. I approached with a friendly greeting, took their cocktail orders, and got the ball rolling. Things progressed in a virtually perfect manner, with drinks, appetizers, salads and more drinks brought, cleared, and refilled at precisely the right moments...

ager and said the guy was nuts (but then again, he did know Sally and Susie). The manager ended up comping the meal for the entire table, drinks and all. Later, I learnt that Sally and Susie were indeed familiar with Mr Rhodes. He wrote a letter every month about a different branch of the restaurant. They continued to send him gift certificates and assure him that everything would be fine next time. Apparently Mr Rhodes discovered that it was more expeditious to simply threaten to write letters. This is a potentially valuable resource for the thousands of homeless people. The poor need only to have the willingness to be utter assholes to eat all they wish of the finest food and drink and pay nothing! Viva La asshole! Solving the hunger problem in Lompen magazine.

Torturous lies HE found his first job in journalism, with the Japanese news agency, Domei. He spent his spare time studying in the reading room of a local library, which was next door to the headquarters of the Japanese military police. "And the whole time," he wrote, "from the first turning of the page to the moment the library closed, one heard, over and over again, the moan, 'Have mercy, sir!'... If one heard the sound of chains being pulled, I think everyone knew what was going on in the torture chamber next door: a prisoner was being stretched out on his back and being forced to swallow a bowl of soggy water. A rattling of the chains meant that the feet of the poor wretch were being shackled, then hoisted above his head as the soggy water came vomiting out of his mouth. Screams accompanied by rattling meant that toe and fingernails were being extracted one by one, very slowly. And if all one heard were sighs and panting gasps, one knew that a stomach swollen with soggy water was being stamped on by rubber soled feet." After listening to the screams and sighs of the tor-

George's men 1. PHILOSOPHY — Rights are unalienable and are granted by God, not man. He does not in any way recognize the federal government. Sovereigns often refuse to have tags on their cars. Most do not pay federal income taxes or register to vote. They generally do not participate in any federal government mandate. Many have renounced their citizenship in writing to the Government to clarify this point. 2. Civil Rights — Under the conception of common law, every Sovereign is respon-

Media Bypass Media Bypass: citizens' rights

able for his actions. They create their own law courts, and don't accept the jurisdiction of any other court. 3. Women — A woman has no standing among sovereigns unless she is a single woman. Even then she has no authority to vote, sit on juries or conduct war. 4. Jews — Although not universally antisemitic in the traditional sense of the word, a sovereign is often consid-

ered an "anti-Esau-Edomite Jew." A common belief is that Jews strive to control the world's wealth through the control of commerce. 5. Blacks — A sovereign does not recognize the citizenship of blacks, because he does not recognize the 14th amendment that made citizens of "all persons born or naturalized in the United States." 6. Economics — Although frequently forced to use them, sovereigns do not recognize Federal Reserve Notes. They generally prefer to trade amongst themselves with gold or silver coin, or barter for goods and services. A few beliefs of the "Freemen", the radical right American group which claims its sovereignty originates from the 1783 treaty signed with England's King George, officially terminating the Revolutionary War and transferring the sovereignty of the King to "the people" of the sovereign state republics. In Media Bypass.

Auction online WELCOME to the catalogue pages of the Golden Dreams online Auction. The great collection of Marilyn memorabilia and collectibles gathered together here numbers 183 items. Auction bids are being accepted via Internet email from May 27 until June 1st, 1998, at 9pm. The Catalogue is divided into seven categories: \* Marilyn's belongings (9) \* Marilyn's first playboy, Vol. 1 (1) \* Books about Marilyn (32) \* Magazines and other Marilyn ephemera (120) \* Marilyn Trading cards (1) \* Marilyn Movie Posters & Lobby cards (10) \* Miscellaneous Marilyn Collectibles (10) The internet (http://www.a-bac.com/home/jackdaw/gbdhome) hot on the heels of the Jackie Kennedy auction. Jackdaw wants your jewels. E-mail jackdaw@guardian.co.uk; fax 0171-713 4566; Jackdaw, The Guardian, 119 Farringdon Road, London EC1R 3ER.

Emily Sheffield

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# Finance Guardian

## Southern Electric's offer under attack as dawn raid sees water falling its way

# Scottish Power out in the cold

Chris Barrie  
Business Correspondent

**S**OUTHERN Electric was poised last night to emerge as victor in the bidding war for Southern Water after it launched a £155 million "dawn raid" to buy 10 per cent of the water company's shares and topped a rival bid from Scottish Power with its own £1.6 billion offer.

£293.9 million on turnover of £1.7 billion. The dividend is increased by 25.2 per cent to 38.3p a share.

Southern Electric had to buy its water company neighbour in order to squeeze out costs by combining operations.

## Anglian share price rise belies bid interest denial

Nicholas Barnister  
Technology Editor

**A**NGLIAN Water yesterday played down speculation that it would get drawn into the bid frenzy in the industry either as predator or prey.

look at those companies where there was greater scope for improving performance. "We have not had any approaches," he added.

a better than expected dividend — up 15.4 per cent and the promise of more to come.

## 'Misery line' operator sees shares double on first day

Pauline Springett

**T**HE controversy over rail privatisation flared again yesterday when shares in Eastern Rail doubled to 295 pence during their first day of trading on the Alternative Investment Market.

£10 million and £11 million. Yesterday's upsurge in the share price indicated that some of the institutions had made a sizeable profit, while others were in anticipation of Prism winning more rail franchises in the future.

company is also planning to replace the old-style slam door carriage trains.

## Murdoch seeks cable ally to fight 'news bias'

Mark Tran in New York

**M**EDIA magnates Rupert Murdoch and John Malone are discussing a partnership that would enable Mr Murdoch's new 24-hour news channel to reach millions of American homes via cable.

his new venture on already overcrowded cable systems.

Mr Murdoch has said that his news channel would be a counterweight to what he believes to be a liberal bias in news programmes.



Liquid assets... Dairy Crest chairman Mike Dowdall (left) and chief executive John Houlston face tough trading conditions as the company floats

## Dairy Crest flotation looks less than electric

Outlook

Roger Cowe

**D**AIRY Crest, the nationalised milk company set up by the Milk Marketing Board (MMB), will be a public company in a flash this summer.

operating level, profits were ahead by almost a fifth.

arrangements scrapped two years ago.

cash raised from placing at least 25 per cent of the shares with financial institutions will pay off debts owed to dairy farmers.

That seems optimistic. All major grocery retailers face tremendous pressure from the supermarket chains.

That has been seen with Clover. Last year Clover sales fell by 9 per cent.

## Sir Rocco's hotel bid shown the door by Granada

Ian King

**S**IR Rocco Forte has been spurned by Granada Group in his latest £1 billion bid to buy back part of his hotels empire, it was revealed last night.

which it is understood concentrated on the Meridien chain.

reject Sir Rocco's bid, stressed that there was "nothing personal" in the decision, and reiterated that it intended to keep Meridien for now.

## Notebook

### Sterling ignores Euro-wrangling



Edited by Alex Brummer

**G**IVEN the current European perceptions of Britain — that of a weak government being swept into a Europhobic posture by dissent in its ranks — this could have been a dicey period for sterling on the foreign exchanges.

ing of the public finances and, however irrational, the prospect of a Labour government — eventually will reverse the current trend.

### Galleic endowment

**T**HE privatisation of France Telecom seems to be the thick end of a year away, but already it looks like being a messy affair.

Still, despite the inevitable struggles to come, the privatisation is not all downside.

### Green futures

**A**T first glance the interim results from Michael Green's Carlton Communications look impressive with pre-tax profits up 19 per cent at £143 million (details facing page), well ahead of analysts' expectations.

MAI, which might have been a merger target, is now beyond Carlton's reach leaving only second ranking television franchises, like ITV, available.

Technicolour is benefiting from the high output of Hollywood studios and profits from its video production and distribution are extremely high.

### Small investors powering unending Wall Street boom

Mark Tran in New York

**A**MERICA'S ardour for the stock market shows no signs of abating, despite Wall Street worries of a crash, with individual investors pouring \$98 billion (\$25 billion) into mutual funds in the first four months of this year.

ingly inexhaustible rally in the stock market, but some of them are worried.

Retirement accounts make up as much as 40 per cent of total stock fund sales and these investors say they are in for the long haul.

TOURIST RATES — BANK SELLS

Australia 1,280	France 7.68	Italy 2,308	Singapore 2.08
Canada 1,538	Germany 12.27	Japan 154.10	South Africa 6.48
Denmark 48.59	Greenland 361.50	Netherlands 2,5425	Spain 188.75
Finland 7.14	Hong Kong 11.42	New Zealand 2.15	Sweden 10.16
France 7.68	India 53.75	Norway 9.75	Switzerland 1.28
Germany 12.27	Ireland 0.9425	Portugal 204.00	Turkey 113,750
Italy 2,308	Israel 4.84	Saudi Arabia 5.55	USA 1.48

Supplied by NatWest Bank (excluding Indian rupee and Israeli shekel).

# Carlton says it can go it alone

Pauline Springett

CARLTON, the London ITV contractor, yesterday tried to defuse speculation that it was poised for an acquisition by stressing the potential of its established businesses.

But analysts believe that the company, which was announcing a 19 per cent jump in half year pre-tax profits to £143.3 million, is probably preparing a bid. Possible targets include Mirror Group or fellow ITV contractor ITV.

The media have been seeing radical restructuring and M&A's recent merger with United News & Media intensified the belief in the City that Carlton would have to make its own move to maintain momentum.

Carlton's chairman Michael Green said: "While the opportunities for investing beyond our existing businesses may be extensive, the prices required are often very demanding. It is our task to take advantage of the former without paying the latter."

Carlton's results, fuelled by programme and video



Healthy profits... Carlton continues to rely on offerings like Bramwell (ITV, Mondays) to make broadcast television its biggest earner

sales were better than the City had expected. Although overall operating profit grew by 14 per cent to £140 million, that of the broadcast television div-

ision was almost unchanged at £61 million, with advertising revenue flat.

This division remained Carlton's biggest earner, with successes including

Kavanagh QC, Bramwell, Cadfael, and Peak Practice. The video and sound products division increased profits by 46 per cent to £20.5 million, boosted by

the performance of its design operation Quantel.

Video production and distribution profits rose 13 per cent to £37.1 million, with best selling videos includ-

ing Disney's Pocahontas and The Aristocats. Film and television services produced a 33 per cent increase in profits to £26.3 million.

News in brief

## Offshoot fraud may cost KHD £276m

THE financial damage to German engineering group Kloeckner-Humboldt-Deutz (KHD) from hidden losses at a subsidiary could be as high as DM650 million (£276 million), public prosecutors said yesterday. Regine Appenrodt, public prosecutor in Cologne, said KHD cited this figure in a criminal complaint filed against 15 people in and out of the company.

Mr Appenrodt said prosecutors would launch an investigation on the basis of the complaint on possible charges of embezzlement and fraud against leading KHD employees. Previously, KHD said it had suspended Peter Wedag, management board chairman of KHD subsidiary Humboldt Wedag and deputy chairman of the KHD group. It also suspended Wedag board members Lutz Hartmann and Hans-Joerg Gaertner. Last week Mr Gaertner disclosed that Wedag board members had manipulated the balance sheet and concealed losses for several years, sparking a crisis that now threatens the KHD group. — *Reuter*

## Brent Walker director quits

BRENT Walker, the troubled leisure group, was dealt a further blow yesterday when the head of its Pubmaster chain, John Brackensbury, resigned. Mr Brackensbury, who joined Brent Walker in 1993, had been chairman of Pubmaster since 1991. He will be retained on a consultancy basis until the end of the year. A spokeswoman for Brent Walker said that Mr Brackensbury had done an excellent job and was resigning "for personal reasons". Some analysts suggested that Mr Brackensbury might have become disenchanted by the delay in the flotation of Pubmaster until next year. — *Pauline Springett*

## C&G trims mortgage rate

CHEL TENHAM & Gloucester has shaved its standard variable mortgage rate to 6.9 per cent — from 6.95 per cent. The rate, available to the Lloyds Bank mortgage subsidiary's new and established borrowers from June 1, reflects the C&G's promise to beat the average rate charged by the top five mortgage lenders. Andrew Longhurst, chief executive, said the move proved that cost-efficiency delivered customer benefits. — *Cliff Jones*

## Texas chief dies at 58

JERRY Junkins, chairman and chief executive officer of Texas Instruments, died yesterday of a heart attack while on a business trip in Europe. Mr Junkins, 58 — who was travelling in Germany at the time — took over the company in 1985 and turned it into one of the world's largest makers of computer chips with revenue doubling to \$13 billion in 11 years. — *Mark Tran in New York*

# UK leapfrogs uncompetitive Germans

The findings of a World Economic Forum survey will give new heart to Eurosceptics but rankings rather depend on how the results are weighted, reports Sarah Ryle

BRITAIN has jumped ahead of its key European Union partners in the latest league table of competitiveness published today — just three days after a rival survey showing an inexorable UK decline.

The Government will take comfort from the findings that core EU countries such as Germany have plummeted from high rankings in last year's World Economic Forum/International Institute of Management Development joint study of competitiveness, while Britain has improved its position from 18th to 15th in today's new WEF solo report.

In a study which will be hailed by Eurosceptics inside and outside the Cabinet, the WEF found that EU states as a group have now slipped behind three of the five other global regions. The EU region does not include Britain, which was classed as an Anglo-Saxon economy.

According to the Geneva-based WEF, Britain was one of just three EU states to rank in the top 20 of the competitiveness index, which measures an economy's ability to promote growth in national output and living standards.

Germany was 22nd, a 16-place drop from sixth place last year in the joint WEF/IMD report, now split into separate studies.

The UK did better in today's WEF study, the Global Competitiveness Report, than in the IMD's version, which was published on Monday. Britain was 19th in the IMD report, mainly because of the different emphasis given to some of the criteria used to judge a country's ability to make rapid and sustained gains in living standards.

Under the WEF rules, more weight is given to the flexibility of a nation's labour market and to the actions of its government, including management of public finances and the degree of its intervention in the economy.

So the UK scores better than nations, such as Germany, which still have relatively high employment costs and have only recently and falteringly embarked on similar programmes.

The authors of the WEF report said: "The European Union is slipping behind many parts of the world in economic competitiveness. The current social welfare system is proving to be too heavy a fiscal burden even for

rich European countries such as France, Germany and Sweden."

The EU as a group, not including the UK and Luxembourg, was fourth of the five regions identified. Anglo-Saxon nations were second overall, with the so-called entrepot economies (including Singapore, Hong Kong and Luxembourg) top of the table. The competitive rankings were not the same as the straight economic growth performances, where the Asian countries came first.

Five of the six most competitive countries in this year's report, including Singapore (top) and Luxembourg (fifth),

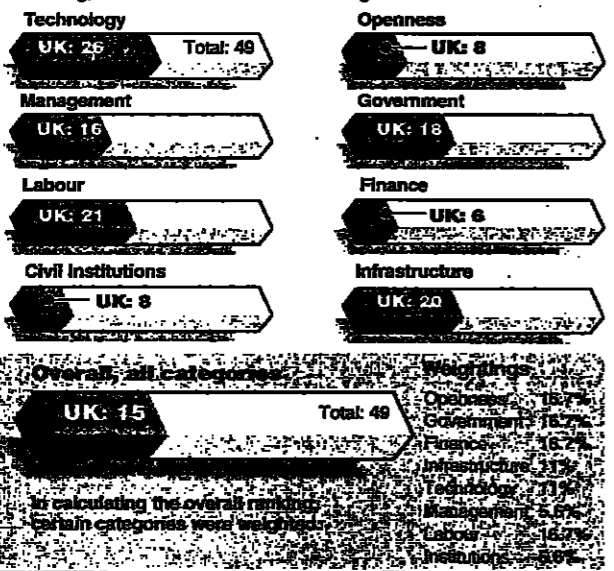
did so well because of their exceptionally open economies, relatively small governments and low tax rates.

Britain, however, did not perform so well in all aspects of the labour market, ranking 27th in terms of its unemployment rate and 35th in the category which asked businessmen how well they thought their national education system met the needs of a competitive economy.

British bosses, on the other hand, find it easier than all but two of their EU partners to hire and fire staff, "restructure" the labour force and avoid the social costs of employment.

### Could do better

UK ranking, out of 49 countries, in these categories.



## The Underside

Dan Atkinson

DAVID Woods, media minder at the World Trade Organisation, suffered more than most during the 1988-93 Uruguay Round. Why, then, did he look so pleased in Paris last week when talk was of a new round of international bitching... sorry, vital trade talks? Easy: I'm coming back to London to join Goldman Sachs at the start of July.

HONG Kong shipping magnate and Tory party contributor (50 big ones for the '92 war-chest) CH Tung is pulling out of the running for chief executiveship of the territory after the Chinese take-over next year. His Orient Overseas Container Line was hailed out by Peking when it hit storms in the 1980s, and in January he was made honorary adviser to the PRC's giant Cosco shipping group. Betting had Mr Tung, already on the Bankers' executive council, as China's choice to replace Governor Patten, but he has let it be known he does not wish to be considered.

A COMMUNIQUE arrives extolling the joys of banking in cyberspace, issued by an organisation called the European Union Bank. No, not another arm of the Brussels octopus, but an institution based in Antigua. Well, of course.

CHERRERS all round as Upstairs Downstairs returns, but the programme was not always so welcome. In the show's mid-Seventies heyday, the London Evening Standard reported business complaints that the old-fashioned images show the world by Upstairs and others were "giving the impression that Britain is steeped in the past and not a nation building computers and Concorde's". Alan

Coren responded with a spoof script in which Hudson and Rose pilged Harrier jump-jets, but to no avail: Britain lost its computer industry, and as for the Concorde... enough said. Meanwhile, Upstairs has become LWT's biggest dollar earner.

MORE news of naughty old Titan, the "business club" (pyramid-selling racket) currently facing a DTI winding-up petition. Hamburg-based Titan suckers hundreds of people around the country into paying £2,500 a head to join; new members then sucker two more people in, for whom they are paid £450 a head. Anyone recruited after that earns them £1,200. Titan is heavy on security, our spy tells us, and would-be mugs have to sign a gagging contract including a DMI10,000 (£4,270) penalty for divulging recruiting details. Titan, we hear, has plans to take its non-services to New Zealand, but the Underside has already tipped off the Serious Fraud Office in Auckland. Sorry boys.

SPOTTED recently in a National Trust shop at Polesden Lacey — the Surrey country house formerly the abode of Edwardian society hostess Mrs Roland Greville — something which looked very like a bum-bag, price £5.50. Not so. According to the shop label, it was a "posterior pouch". The National Trust disclose the item is described in the vernacular in all its shops other than Polesden Lacey, where the manageress cannot bring herself to use the term. The Trust said: "She doesn't like the phrase and believes that Mrs Greville would prefer something rather more refined."

BRITAIN'S executives seem to be getting on better with bosses and colleagues, according to job consultants Drake Beam Morin. Hurray! Drakes add: "It may be that... universal job insecurity is creating a common bond." Ah,

## Forex traders give top marks to the pound

Larry Elliott and Mark Milner

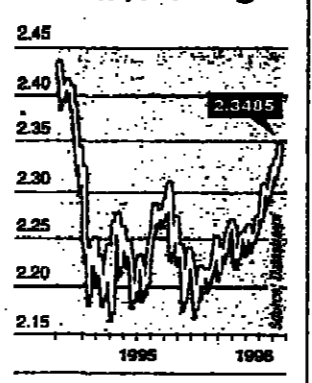
THE pound soared to a 15-month high against the German mark on the exchanges yesterday as dealers shrugged off political fears generated by the Government's European showdown over beef.

Sterling extended its good run against the German currency, which has seen it climb from around 2.17 last November to just under 2.35 at last night's close in London. The rapid rise continued in New York, where it was changing hands at 2.38.

Some analysts said last night that if the pound could break decisively above 2.35 — a key point on dealers' currency charts — it could move up to 2.40 or higher in the coming weeks. The upswing could get a further boost if the Bundesbank, which meets today, were to cut interest rates again to help Germany's struggling economy — though that would push the country's borrowing costs into uncharted territory.

The bullish sentiment towards the pound helped the Bank of England's latest auc-

### D mark/sterling



tion of £3 billion worth of long dated government securities. Despite the size of gilt sales to meet the higher than expected public sector borrowing requirement, yesterday's auction of 35 year stock was more than twice subscribed.

Treasury economist Tony Norfield at ABN Amro said that sterling was underpinned against the mark by the 1.8 percentage-point premium on 10-year gilts over corresponding German bonds while "at this stage of the cycle the UK [economy] looks in far better shape than Germany does."

Mr Norfield said that the uncertain political outlook in the UK — where the Government has a parliamentary majority of just one — had already been taken into account fully by the foreign exchange markets. "It could take the actual announcement of a general election to change the market's risk perception!"

Despite the recent gains, the pound is still well below the level at which it stood at the beginning of last year before it was hammered by the collapse in the dollar triggered by the Mexican debt crisis. Its new strength will, however, provide the Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke, with some useful ammunition if he feels the need to boost the pound's value.

One of the main concerns of the Bank of England has been that a weak pound could lead to inflation by making imports dearer, pushing up wage demands. But such concerns will have been eased among the inflation hawks at the Bank if sterling can hold at DM2.35 and \$1.52, even though a firmer exchange rate makes life more difficult for Britain's exporters in what is already a depressed European market.



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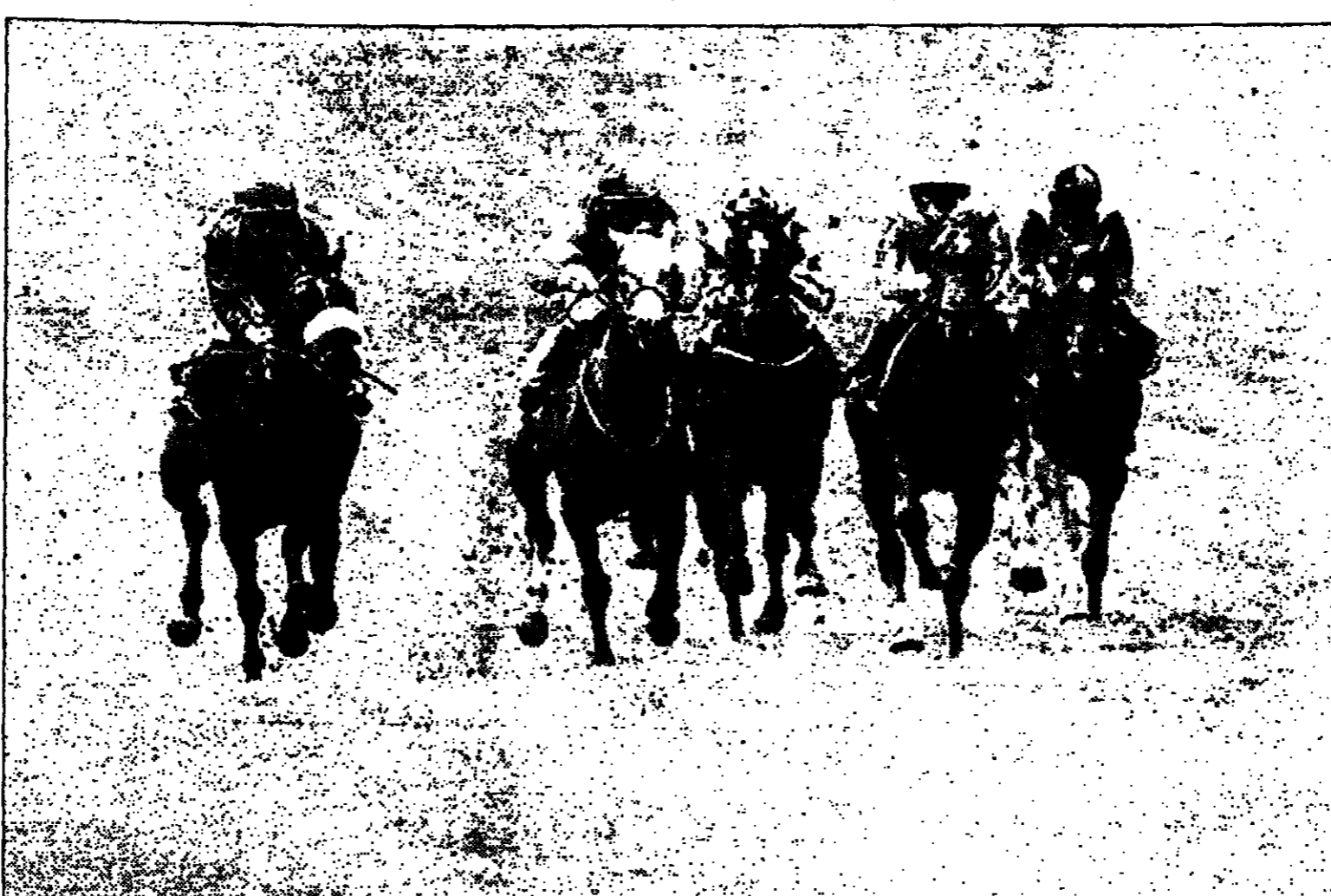
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Racing

Godolphin's Derby hopes rise as their leading colt's temperature drops. Chris Hawkins reports

Going looks good for Mark Of Esteem

MARK OF ESTEEM, who ran a temperature on Tuesday, has given no further cause for concern and will do some work over the weekend in preparation for the Vodafone Derby on Saturday week.



Super run... Supercal (third left) is given a lead before landing the spoils in yesterday's auction stakes at Folkestone

There were 15 acceptors yesterday for the French Derby on Sunday at Chantilly, trained by Peter Chappelle.

Supercal (third left) is given a lead before landing the spoils in yesterday's auction stakes at Folkestone

At Carlisle this afternoon, Gymerak Flyer (2.50) and Sandblast (3.20) could be a rewarding double.

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Mick's Love, the other Godolphin runner, was cut from 20-1 to 14-1 by Hill's yesterday.

Carlisle

Racing schedule for Carlisle including times and horse names like 2.20 Dular, 2.50 Gymerak Flyer, 3.20 Sandblast.

Hereford (N.H.) tonight

Racing schedule for Hereford (N.H.) tonight including times and horse names like 6.50 Puffedumbo, 7.00 Jim Valentino.

Musselburgh tonight

Racing schedule for Musselburgh tonight including times and horse names like 6.45 Poney, 7.15 Bayrak (trap).

Uttoxeter (N.H.)

Racing schedule for Uttoxeter (N.H.) including times and horse names like 2.00 Stoney Petrel, 2.30 Lancer's Hill.

Results

Table showing race results for Folkestone, including race numbers, horse names, and winning jockeys.

Results

Table showing race results for Carlisle, including race numbers, horse names, and winning jockeys.

Results

Table showing race results for Hereford (N.H.), including race numbers, horse names, and winning jockeys.

Results

Table showing race results for Musselburgh, including race numbers, horse names, and winning jockeys.

Results

Table showing race results for Uttoxeter (N.H.), including race numbers, horse names, and winning jockeys.

Results

Table showing race results for Brighton, including race numbers, horse names, and winning jockeys.

Advertisement for RACINE 0930 1684, listing contact information for Carlisle, Brighton, Uttoxeter, and Musselburgh.

Advertisement for Folkestone, listing contact information for Carlisle, Brighton, Uttoxeter, and Musselburgh.

Advertisement for Carlisle, listing contact information for Carlisle, Brighton, Uttoxeter, and Musselburgh.

Advertisement for Hereford (N.H.), listing contact information for Carlisle, Brighton, Uttoxeter, and Musselburgh.

Advertisement for Musselburgh, listing contact information for Carlisle, Brighton, Uttoxeter, and Musselburgh.

Advertisement for Uttoxeter (N.H.), listing contact information for Carlisle, Brighton, Uttoxeter, and Musselburgh.

Brighton

Table showing Brighton race schedule including times and horse names like 2.10 Dalmatian Dancer, 2.40 Marquise Walk.

Table showing Brighton race schedule including times and horse names like 2.10 BIP PROCEEDING, 2.40 BIP PROCEEDING.

Table showing Brighton race schedule including times and horse names like 2.40 BIP PROCEEDING, 2.40 BIP PROCEEDING.

Table showing Brighton race schedule including times and horse names like 3.10 PLANNING AND ALLIANCE, 3.10 PLANNING AND ALLIANCE.

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Table showing Brighton race schedule including times and horse names like 9.10 BIP PROCEEDING, 9.10 BIP PROCEEDING.

Blinkered for the first time - BRIGHTON: 3.40 Eskimo Kias, 3.20 Boundary Bird, 3.10 Kismetim, 3.00 Snowy Petrel, 3.00 Mr Christie, 3.30 Howling, 4.00 Menekuch.

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Soccer

League may block Wright's £10m bid

Neil Robinson

CHRIS WRIGHT'S ambitious plan to take over Queens Park Rangers and Wasp's hit what may prove an insurmountable obstacle last night when the Football League announced that it might veto ground-sharing at Loftus Road.

ace almost a decade ago, and it refused to approve a Brighton ground-share scheme at Portsmouth for next season unless the club first submitted proposals for a new ground in the Hoe area.

Even if the League approves the scheme, QPR's former chairman Richard Thompson, whose family retains a controlling interest in the club, may not accept Wright's offer.

Swiss squad is voted a miss

SWITZERLAND'S coach Andre Jurge, who left the midfielder Alain Sutter and the striker Adrian Knap out of his squad for Euro 96 - in which they play England in the first match on Saturday week - has been criticised by the Swiss media for discarding the talents of the side Roy Hodgson took to the 1994 World Cup finals.

Brown yesterday forwarded his 22 names for Euro 96 to Uefa, with Derek Whyte of Middlesbrough taking the place left by an injury to Alan McLaren of Rangers, the squad is the same as that on tour in the United States.

Scotland, with 12 over-30s in the squad, will be captained by Gary McAllister in their group games against England, Holland and Switzerland.

Cycling

Cipollini seizes the moment to take third stage victory

MARIO CIPOLLINI marked the halfway point in the Giro d'Italia with his third stage victory when he edged out Djambidine Abdouparov of Uzbekistan in a sprint for the finish of yesterday's Marina di Massa stage.

group in 2hr 58min at an average speed of 28mph. He remains four seconds clear of Russia's Pavel Tonkov. Two of the favourites for overall victory, Evgeny Berzin and the world road champion Abraham Olano, trail by 26 and 89sec.

Sport in brief

ATLETICS Tony Jarrett recorded a rare 110m hurdles victory over his Great Britain team-mate Colin Jackson in Bratislava last night.

Results

Soccer FRIENDLY INTERNATIONALS Northern Ireland 0, Germany 1; Scotland 0, Portugal 1; Republic of Ireland 0, Portugal 1; Folha silences Republic's young guns.

Athletics

INTERNATIONAL MEET (Bratislava) Men 100m: 1. D Campbell (GB) 10.78sec; 200m: 1. P Stevens (GB) 22.25; 400m: 1. Jonathan (GB) 45.48; 800m: 1. V Nyong'o (Kenya) 1:52.20; 1,500m: 1. T. Thompson (GB) 4:11.40; 2,000m: 1. R. Lard (GB) 7:14.40; 3,000m: 1. A. Baker (GB) 9:45.00; 4,000m: 1. M. O'Neill (Ire) 12:27.00; 5,000m: 1. M. O'Neill (Ire) 16:45.00; 6,000m: 1. M. O'Neill (Ire) 21:15.00; 7,000m: 1. M. O'Neill (Ire) 25:45.00; 8,000m: 1. M. O'Neill (Ire) 30:15.00; 9,000m: 1. M. O'Neill (Ire) 34:45.00; 10,000m: 1. M. O'Neill (Ire) 39:15.00.

Baseball

AMERICAN LEAGUE Toronto 5, Chicago 1; Milwaukee 7, Minnesota 3; Texas 10, Cleveland 5; California 1, NY Yankees 0; Boston 2, Seattle 1; Baltimore 12, Montreal 2; Pittsburgh 6, Houston 5; Montreal 2, San Diego 2; Philadelphia 9, Los Angeles 3; Cincinnati 7, San Francisco 2; St Louis 3, Colorado 1; Pittsburgh 8, Chicago 4; Atlanta 14, 1.

Rugby League

Super League: Wigan 50, Sheffield 6. Eagles easy prey as Wigan soon get back in the groove.

Rugby Football Union

Paul Fitzpatrick. Castidy and Sheffield's misfortunes continued when Connolly cracked down Sheridan's kick. That passage of play ended with Oflah scoring in the corner. Paul's try four minutes before the interval overed nothing to the opposition and was vintage Wigan.

EURO 96 HOTLINE 099 099 1996 FOOTBALL CLUB HOME

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Republic of Ireland 0, Portugal 1

Charlie Stuart at Lansdowne Road. Folha silences Republic's young guns.

Republic of Ireland 0, Portugal 1

But McCarthy will have been well pleased with the performance of his young side and must have hopes of breaking his managerial duck against Croatia at the same venue on Sunday.

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Germany's Jürgen Klinsmann misses with a fourth-minute penalty after he had been felled at Windsor Park last night

Wide of the mark... Germany's Jürgen Klinsmann misses with a fourth-minute penalty after he had been felled at Windsor Park last night.

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Wide of the mark... Germany's Jürgen Klinsmann misses with a fourth-minute penalty after he had been felled at Windsor Park last night

Friendly Internationals: Northern Ireland 1, Germany 1

Germany give the game away

Germany give the game away. The German captain played here much to the pleasure of the Irish FA as his appearance guaranteed a warm response from those having one last stand on the soon-to-be demolished Spion Kop.

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Cricket

Greg Baum tunes into The Don's telethon and finds the great man's final thoughts in public as difficult to draw out as he was to get out

Bradman's bat as straight as ever

SIR DONALD Bradman yesterday broke a silence of several decades...



As to why he stood so far above any other batsman in history, he replied: 'Don't ask me that, I don't know the answer'

Money and television had driven Bradman and Packer apart 20 years ago, money and television reconciled them this year...

The programme's prelude noted how much Sir Donald achieved in his career 'for nothing'...

But for Channel 9 there would be no sense without dollars. At the end of the two-hour programme...

Spliced with every available piece of footage of Sir Donald's tributes...

The interview was more memorable for the fact of its happening than for an apocalyptic revelation...

Although apparently as nimble of mind as ever, he regretted at one point that Tendulkar had not yet toured Australia...

He played a few hours of a tune on his beloved piano, then stopped, apologising that he was capable of no more now...

Of the perception that he was the greatest Australian of all that was for others to judge. As to why he stood so far above other batsmen in history...

He was so rarely caught at the wicket, he said, because without any formal coaching he played with an unfashionable closed face...

Butting was 'very often' as easy as he made it seem, but 'not always, and sometimes [it was] very difficult'...



Double act... Sir Donald with interviewer Ray Martin at the Adelaide Oval

Sir Donald fashioned his own conclusion to the interview by reading a passage written by Lord Harris...

from anything sordid, anything dishonourable, than any game in the world...

It was, said Sir Donald, his life-long creed. Channel 9 will probably refer to it as the marketing department to see if it can be put to music...

Golf

Davies drives into fast lane

David Henderson in North Carolina on the Ferrari owner gunning for US Open success

AURA DAVIES is Britain's answer to Greg Norman. She has not played a six-shot lead in a major but she is defying the Australian's belief that if you have got it, spend it...

Her £70,000 BMW 850 will have to go. 'I am at home only 12 weeks of the year, having a Ferrari is a waste of money, so having two great cars is sheer stupidity'...

Now, of course, her driving is unsurpassed. Her tee-shots frequently travel close to 300 yards, but it was her putting which paid such huge dividends last Sunday...



Davies... \$841,000 this year

Rugby Union

Callard wooed by Welsh

David Phelan

THE England and Bath full-back Jonathan Callard is being courted by Wales - to play rugby league. Callard impressed the South Wales RLFC coach Clive Griffiths when Bath played Wigan at league at Maine Road this month...

Wales play England in the European Championship in Cardiff on June 26 and Nicholas said it was not beyond the realms of possibility that the 30-year-old Callard, brought up in Newport, could be in contention for Wales, having played rugby union for Welsh Schools...

Cricket

News and Scores 0891 22 88+

Table with 2 columns: Counties update, Scores. Lists counties and their respective scores.

Complete county scores 0891 22 88 30

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Sport

The Guardian

Montgomerie inspired by new putting Pal

Michael Britton in Hamburg

COLDEN MONTGOMERIE has arrived here for the Deutsche Bank Open with the look of a man who has discovered the elixir of life. It comes in the form of a new Ping Putter which he believes will transform his fortunes on the greens in good time for his prime target of 1996, the US Open at Oakland Hills, Michigan in a fortnight...

Championship last week, is in a poor putting patch. He has also been a victim of his own indecision. The European No. 1 used a different putter each day at Westworth and at the Players Championship in Florida in March...

all to do with what's in your head. Anyone can be a good putter. 'It is half the shots in golf, but in my case it is more than half the shots. I am in a bad phase, but I will get out of it'...

Thomas proves his versatility as Wales get off to a flying start

Wales ran in 10 tries in yesterday's 62-20 win over Western Australia.

The scrum-half Andy Moore went over in the fourth minute. Thomas then got his first and Hill twice scored in the corner. Dafydd James, an uncapped wing, scored just before the interval and Thomas got four tries in the second half. The flanker Kingsley Jones also scored a try, and Neil Jenkins weighed in with six conversions.

game of the tour,' said the Wales coach Kevin Bowring. The scrum-half Andy Moore went over in the fourth minute. Thomas then got his first and Hill twice scored in the corner. Dafydd James, an uncapped wing, scored just before the interval and Thomas got four tries in the second half. The flanker Kingsley Jones also scored a try, and Neil Jenkins weighed in with six conversions.

Bannister hit by flak over Illingworth book

Mike Selvey

JACK BANNISTER, the writer and broadcaster with more hats than Mrs Schilling's wardrobe shelf, has returned one by resigning as honorary president of the Cricketers' Association, the professional players' union, because of his involvement as the author of Raymond Illingworth's controversial book One-Man Committee...

The involvement with Illingworth on a commercial basis has provided ammunition for the conspiracy theorists who are aware that Bannister, an Illingworth supporter, had been one of those questioning whether it was right for the association's paid general secretary David Graveney to stand against Illingworth for the position of chairman of selectors. As a result Graveney asked to withdraw from the contest by the association because the players felt he could not serve both interests...

Benson & Hedges Cup, quarter-finals

Emburey rolls back the years

AN OLD dog came up with some new tricks at the County Ground yesterday writes Mike Selvey. Northampton. The 43-year-old John Emburey, Northamptonshire's director of cricket, produced a run-out and then four wickets in four overs to turn the course of the inter-county match...

cutting to backward point where Ambrose took a sharp catch. Who had seemed an exuberant victory charge by Kent had been halted abruptly and worse was to follow when Martin McCague hoisted a huge catch to deep midwicket where Tony Penberthy had lunged for six. But another mistimed heave saw him caught on the run by Capel at midwicket to give Emburey his fourth wicket...

Scoreboard table showing match results for Benson & Hedges Cup, Lancashire v Yorkshire, and Northamptonshire v Kent.

Scoreboard

Scoreboard table showing match results for Lancashire v Yorkshire, Northamptonshire v Kent, and other matches.

Minor Counties Championship

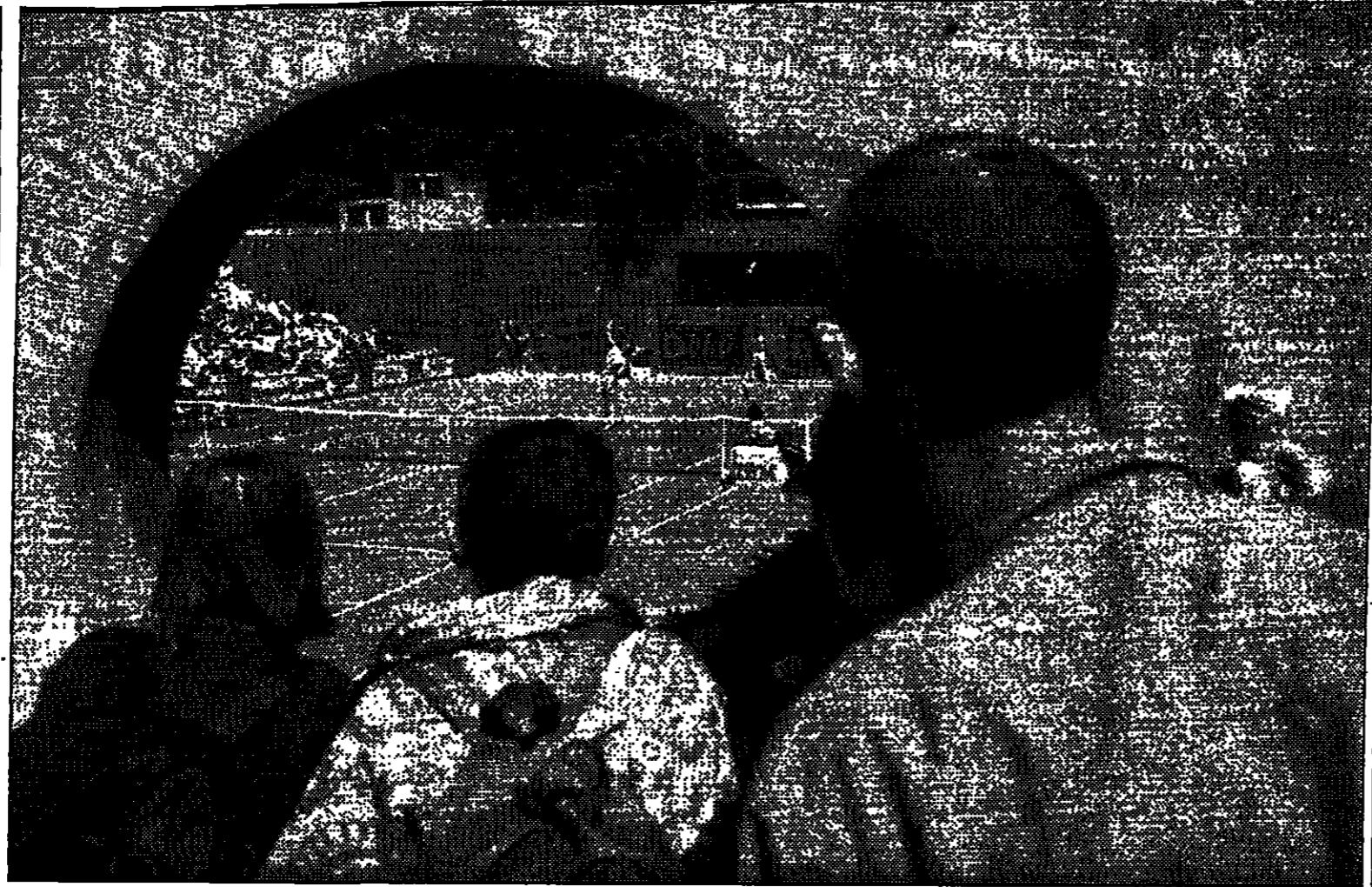
Table showing results for the Minor Counties Championship, including matches between Gloucestershire and Warwickshire, and other teams.

# SportsGuardian

## THE FRENCH OPEN WARMS UP: A SHOCK FOR AGASSI, A SCARE FOR SAMPRAS



Working up a sweat ... Andre Agassi (above) against Chris Woodruff, and spectators seeking shade



Report by Stephen Bierley Photographs by Tom Jenkins

# Early exit for rusty Agassi

AMERICA'S best teetered, America's best fell. Andre Agassi, as close to a genius as the current game has, fumbled his way to a banal defeat at Roland Garros yesterday, and Pete Sampras, the No. 1 seed, narrowly survived in the fifth set after a fluctuating performance against Spain's Sergi Bruguera, the champion in 1993 and 1994.

pull the fat out of the fire with an unglued hand. He played poorly in the first round on Monday, and yesterday Chris Woodruff, a little-known 23-year-old from Knoxville, Tennessee, had the result of his life, winning 4-6, 6-4, 6-7, 6-3, 6-2. He was handed it on a cracked plate. Not only had Woodruff not played Agassi before, he had not met him. "He came up to me before the match and said, 'How do you do, my name's Andre.' Afterwards he said, 'Congratulations.' I thought that was pretty classy."

The same could not be said for the greater body of Agassi's performance, and Agassi's body, no matter the looseness of his clothing, is far greater than it was. Too much money, not enough tennis. His shots were frequently all over the place, notably the forehand. He served almost a dozen double-faults and his footwork was often non-existent. Yet as long as his timing remained he had a chance: once that deserted him defeat became inevitable. He never stopped going for winners; they rarely came.

Woodruff greeted victory with a look of total disbelief. He dropped his racket to the red clay and clutched his white cap. Then, after shaking hands with Agassi, he slumped down on his chair and the tears spilled. Woodruff is the antithesis of Agassi. "My values are small-town values. The way he lives is not my style. I like to play golf, go to the movies and hang about with my friends at the golf shop." Nine months ago, after a successful junior and college career, he almost turned his

back on tennis. "I had to pay a lot of money to get my head screwed on right." His previous Grand Slam experience was in the US Open, losing first-round matches in 1993, the year he turned professional, and 1995. Even now he has no great love for the pro circuit. "It was a real shock to get out on the tour. Everyone is so cut-throat. I was not brought up in such a selfish manner. I really don't like the tour but it's something I feel fortunate in being able to do."

The world of fast cars and multi-million-dollar Nike ads suddenly seemed a universe away. When the clean-shaven, upright Woodruff entered the post-match conference, a meeting Agassi ducked, he whispered wide-eyed to an official: "Lots of people." It was always likely that Sampras would have a tough fight for Bruguera had beaten him on the way to the title in 1993. Injury has seen the Spaniard slip back in the world rankings, and he arrived dangerously unseeded. Sampras' coach Tim Gullikson, who died recently, believed the US, Australian and three-time Wimbledon champion could win in Paris. So far he has not gone beyond the quarter-finals. Sampras

# High spirits that lead to high dudgeon



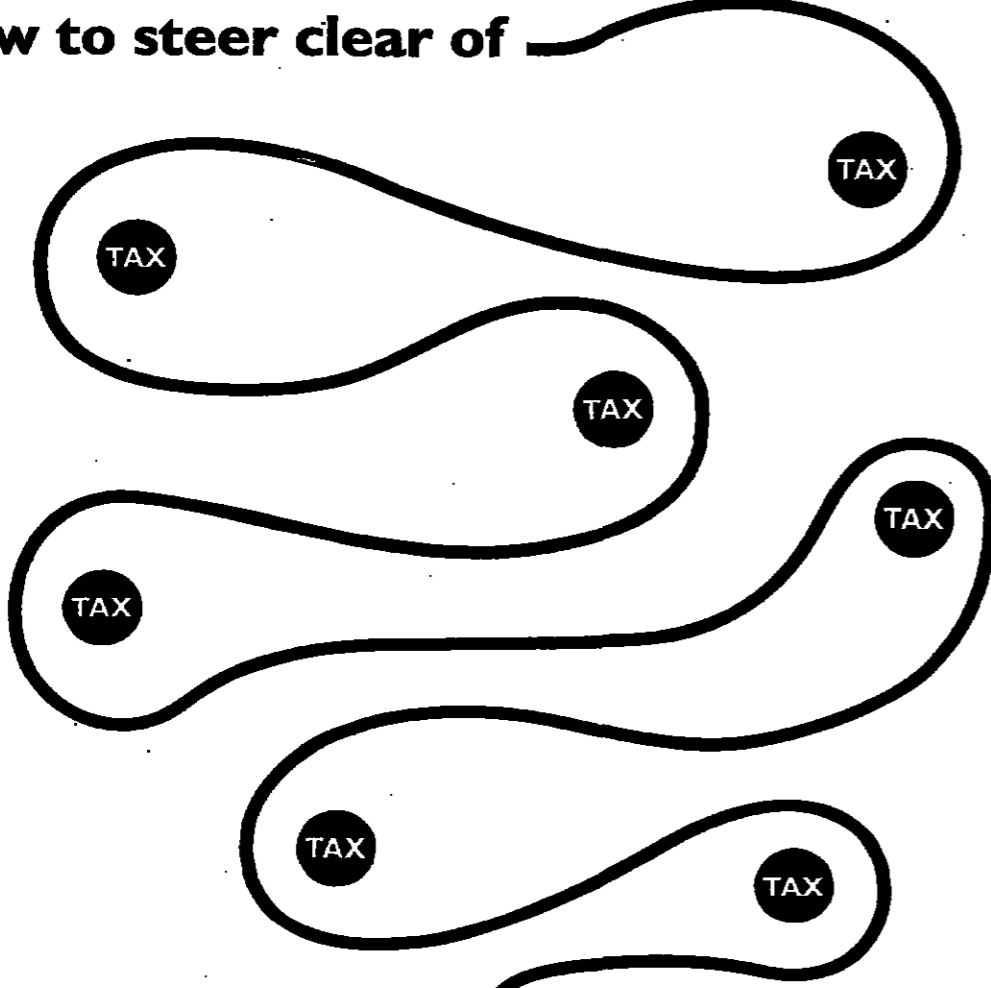
Frank Keating

IMPECCABLE timing is crucial in sport, so the moment you heard the first vague rumblings of the story there could be no doubt that the best player, you know who had been in the thick of you know what about Cathay Pacific flight CX321 from Hong Kong. After all, Monday had been his 29th birthday and the Marco Polo business class was dishing out unlimited champagnes. As the grey dawn fingered the eastern skies beyond Heathrow, the England team's jumbo jet feathered down from the same direction and at once two vast armies formed to face each other in quarrelsome dispute. There were those of the "youthful exuberance" complexion and those of the "jobbish lion" conviction, the nation again split down the middle to contest the verbal brawl from sawdust taproom to candelabra-lit dinner party. When you heard, first up for the defence yesterday, the oleaginous and ubiquitous footballer's agent Eric Hill — "a rooster, monster over-reaction" — the immediate thought was that the Tower wasn't good enough for Paul Gascoigne. And that conviction was not in the least diluted when the FA's first tremulous reaction was to prod out over the top, to be shot down as cannon fodder on the steps of Lancaster Gate, a young jet-legged squirt in a suit to say: "Nothing untoward happened: at the end of any 13-hour long-haul flight newspapers are scattered everywhere."

possibly in their own time? What other famous British flag-bearers — celebrated actors, film stars, musicians, singers — could be in danger of losing their jobs at a stroke because of mild off-stage misbehaviour? Take it from me that you could stagger from a rowdily roistering sports-talking flight with any three of Richard Burton, Trevor Howard and Ian Botman, and only the latter's performance would inspire obscure provincial policemen to sound off on national television. If it's a question of being a "responsible" example to children, well why does sport always exclusively carry that can and not actors or musicians? It is that old feudal, working-class thing again. Sport is still steeped in that Victorian boy-scoutery ethos which demands that "professionals" must keep their noses clean whereas anything goes for decent public-school amateur "jokers". Witness what rugby union tourists have been allowed to get away with down the century. Players and camp-followers still grade Lions tours — whole corridors of hotel doors need or taken off hinges, unknown women guests hosed out of their beds, dozens of wardrobes or beds dangerously hurled down 10 floors into swimming-pools below — as "a brilliant wreckers' tour" (South Africa, 1988) or "so dull, even the wrecking was not up to much" (New Zealand, 1977).

THERE have been no end of stories, fact or hearsay, about British footballers "over-relaxing" on aircraft. But because the great Gascoigne is, alas, also Gazza, he may well have blown his last chance of displaying his breathtaking talents downstage to an audience of the world. Offhand, the previous England player to need to be helped off an aeroplane and into the tabloids' embrace on the eve of a major championship was Jeff Astle at Mexico City before the 1970 World Cup. Luckily they were only Mexican tabloids — and the truth was that Astle, a notoriously scared flier, had knocked back just two medicinal whiskeys to try to stifle both air-sickness and food poisoning. He was ill, not drunk, and he recovered — in time horrendously to miss a palpable rouser against Brazil. But the combination of such infamy made him the star butt of a late-night football programme a quarter of a century later. Which is probably where the once genius Gascoigne will be in 2021.

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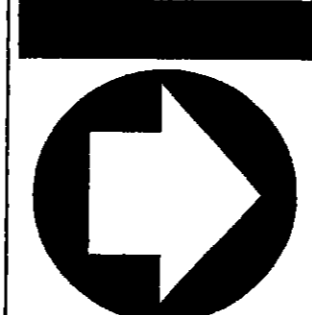
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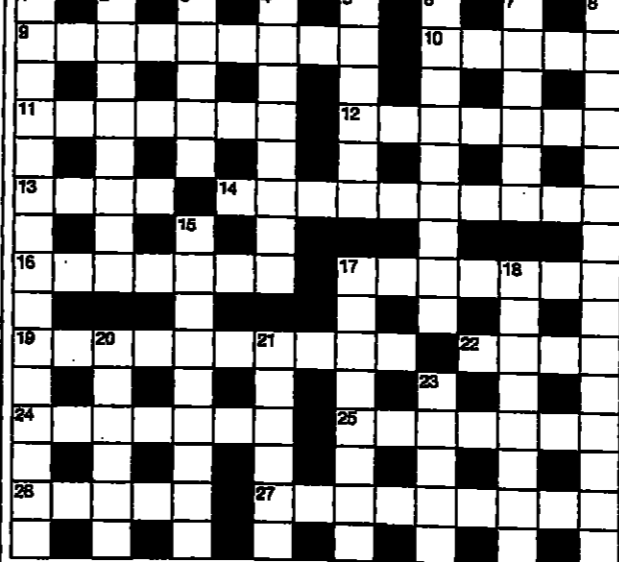
Acting hard is the name of the game. Suzanne Moore G2 page 7



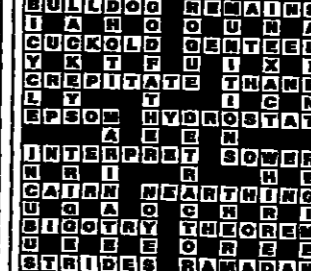
A lot of these cases from Gazza's antics to supporters' chants to Cabinet silliness are not much to do with men behaving badly but with keeping up appearances. Pop stars and footballers must always be rowdy. Politicians must never back down. Acting hard is the name of the game. Suzanne Moore G2 page 7

## Guardian Crossword No 20,666

Set by Rufus



- Across**
- 8 Live out on new development (8)
  - 10 Give out centre part of text due for revision (5)
  - 11 Looking pale coming out of a cinema (7)
  - 12 Throw out a proposed scheme (7)
  - 13 Settled one in a small apartment (4)
  - 14 Just sufficient reason for a place of diversion (10)
  - 16 Choose one mother — the best (7)
  - 17 No simple obsession (7)
  - 18 Simple, or merely neat perhaps (10)
  - 22 Some pictorial photographs of Xanadu's sacred river (4)
  - 24 Profligate poet? (7)
  - 26 Antoine may be from a public school (7)
- Down**
- 1 Lawyers go into this valid testimony (5,10)
  - 2 He wants to raise the to scheme of living (8)
  - 3 An odd card game (5)
  - 4 Deny a key's stupidly mislaid outside (8)
  - 5 He aims not to be seen by the enemy (6)
  - 6 Mother takes in older variety entertainment (9)
  - 7 Ladies' man holding ancient city office (6)
  - 8 Impassioned arguments about telephonists' winter accommodation? (6,9)
  - 15 Ash Wednesday is understandably the first of them (5,4)



- CROSSWORD SOLUTION 20,665**
- 17 Stays around (8)
  - 18 Sweet sort of lady giving children guidance (8)
  - 20 Makes correct for me to be in talk (8)
  - 21 Lay on a party (6)
  - 23 Portends the start of ballad poetry (5)
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